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New York

President:	Mr. Liu Jieyi	(China)
Members:	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Mr. Llorentty Solíz
	Egypt	Mr. Moustafa
	Ethiopia	Mr. Alemu
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Italy	Mr. Cardi
	Japan	Mr. Bessho
	Kazakhstan	Mr. Sadykov
	Russian Federation	Mr. Safronkov
	Senegal	Mr. Ciss
	Sweden	Mr. Skoog
	Ukraine	Mr. Vitrenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Hickey
	United States of America	Mrs. Haley
	Uruguay	Mr. Rosselli

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Yemen to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the following briefers to participate in this meeting: Mr. Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen; Mr. Stephen O'Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator; Mr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization; and Mr. José Graziano da Silva, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Mr. Ould Cheikh Ahmed is joining via video-teleconference from Amman, and Mr. Tedros and Mr. Graziano da Silva are joining via video-teleconference from Geneva.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I give the floor to Mr. Ould Cheikh Ahmed.

Mr. Ould Cheikh Ahmed (*spoke in Arabic*): The situation in Yemen remains extremely grave. The intensity of the conflict is increasing daily, and the tragic humanitarian situation continues to worsen.

For the third successive year, Yemenis have seen the holy month of Ramadan transformed from a month of tolerance and peace into a month of violence and hopelessness. Yemen has seen an increase in battles of attrition between the parties to the conflict, and the pace of military operations has increased in Hajjah, Ma'rib and Al Jawf governorates. Since 10 June, fighting has also escalated significantly in Taiz and areas to the east of the city. The fighting for control of the presidential palace in the city has intensified in parallel with indiscriminate shelling in residential areas, leading to an increase in the number of dead and injured, and further destruction of the city's remaining civilian infrastructure. There have been numerous casualties in Ma'rib governorate, particularly during the battle for control of Serwah district.

Violence has also continued in Hajjah governorate and the border area between Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, including on 22 and 29 June, when rockets landed in the Jizan area of Saudi Arabia. In addition, air strikes have continued to hit numerous locations in the governorates of Sa'dah, Taiz, Ma'rib and Sana'a. Air strikes hit a market in Moshnaq village, in Sa'dah, on 18 June, and Al-Mokha town on 4 July. Both incidents resulted in numerous civilian deaths and injuries, including women and children.

Despite the fact that we have urged the warring parties to respect their obligations under international humanitarian law, the targeting of civilians and civilian infrastructure continues; this cannot be tolerated. There must be respect for international legal norms.

On 15 June, an Emirati ship was subjected to a bombardment from the vicinity of Al-Mokha port, threatening maritime security in the Bab Al-Mandab strait. The continued targeting of vessels in the area seriously jeopardizes the provision of much-needed humanitarian and commercial supplies to the most vulnerable Yemenis.

In addition, security continues to be undermined by the activities of extremist groups, including Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula. On 7 June, a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device targeted the convoy of the Abyan chief of security, killing two of his bodyguards. Later in the month, on 14 June, militants detonated an improvised explosive device at a police station in Dhale governorate, killing the chief of police and wounding several others. Here let me stress, as I have done before, that the longer the conflicts lasts, the more terrorist groups will expand and threaten Yemen's future by controlling more territory.

The humanitarian situation in Yemen is appalling. The people are suffering from war and hunger and from cholera, which has continued to spread during the last few weeks. The country is not suffering from a single emergency, but from a number of complex emergencies that have affected more than 20 million people and whose scale and effect will be felt long after the end of the war.

Approximately 14 million people are food insecure, of whom almost 7 million are at risk of being victims of famine, as my colleagues will indicate in their

respective briefings. Cholera is spreading rapidly and is infecting children and elderly people and other vulnerable groups in many parts of the country. There are now over 300,000 suspected cases of the disease, and more than 1,700 have died in the epidemic. Tens of thousands of health-care workers have not been paid for many months. More than half of the country's health facilities have closed, and supplies of medicine and medical equipment remain severely limited.

The speed and scale of Yemen's cholera outbreak serves to highlight the consequences of a collapsed public-sector system. I would like to praise the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's generous $67 million donation, which has helped to slow the spread of the disease. I call on other donors to provide further contributions as soon as possible.

The non-payment of salaries for health-care workers and other staff in the public sector is an urgent issue. If it is not addressed, the continuation of the status quo will lead to key State institutions ceasing to function. I fully support the joint proposal by the United Nations Development Programme, the World Health Organization and UNICEF to support immediate payments to health-care workers as soon as possible in advance so that health services may be maintained. I call upon Member States to make every effort to support this initiative, as it is important to improving the work of State institutions, stabilize the humanitarian situation and provide basic-service delivery in future.

A World Bank-financed cash-transfer programme is expected to disburse the first quarterly payment to the most vulnerable households across the country in August, to benefit about 8 million Yemenis. My Office has been working continuously with partners to ensure the success of this initiative, with a view to supporting household purchasing power, avoiding widespread destitution, improving the general situation and restoring hope. I hope that the international community will heed this call and support these initiatives.

Over the past year, the United Nations Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator and I have called repeatedly for the resumption of commercial flights from and to the Sana'a airport. The absence of commercial flights has placed an unnecessary burden on the population and worsened an already desperate humanitarian situation. I appeal to the coalition and the parties to the conflict to support the United Nations proposal for the resumption of regular flights, especially for individuals requiring medical care, students studying abroad and family reunification.

I continue to work with the parties and encourage them to strive towards the adoption of the agreements I outlined during my previous briefing to the Council (see S/PV.7954). I am planning to invite representatives of Ansar Allah and the General People's Congress to restart discussions on those ideas as soon as possible. In the past few days, I was in direct contact with Ansar Allah, which is cause for optimism. I am grateful for the efforts of the People's Republic of China in playing an instrumental role in that regard.

The proposed agreements focus on the Hudaydah port and the surrounding area. They aim to ensure the continued flow of basic humanitarian supplies and commercial goods through the port and to implement a programme for collecting taxes and other revenues for the purposes of paying salaries and supporting services, rather than underwriting the war. An agreement on the port of Hudaydah should become the basis for a national agreement for the resumption of salary payments nationwide, which should provide some relief to many Yemenis. Undoubtedly, such an agreement will require clear mechanisms for ensuring that all State revenues, whether collected in Hudaydah, Sana'a, Aden or elsewhere, are used in support of the payment of salaries and the reactivation of State institutions in all areas of the country.

The Government of Yemen has reacted positively to these ideas and has agreed to negotiate on the basis of my proposals. In my meetings with President Hadi, he agreed on the need to implement measures to ensure the delivery of humanitarian and commercial supplies and to prevent arms smuggling and the diversion of taxes and other revenues.

I arrived this morning from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, where I met Saudi Crown Prince, First Deputy Prime Minister His Royal Highness Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud. I welcome the commitment by the Saudi leadership to support efforts to bring the parties to agreement on these issues. I will depart for Cairo tomorrow to continue my current work with the Government of Yemen and regional leaders on these ideas.

I also hope to meet soon with the delegations of Ansar Allah and the General People's Congress to discuss the possible agreements on Hudaydah and

salaries as a preliminary step towards a national cessation of hostilities and a comprehensive resolution of the conflict, with a view to restoring peace and stability to Yemen. It is essential that Ansar Allah and the General People's Congress engage with me on these proposals constructively and in good faith if they truly want an end to the war and an improvement in the humanitarian situation.

I reiterate my sincere gratitude to the international community, which has consistently supported my efforts and the proposals that I have put forward to the parties. I recently visited France briefly, and its new Government reiterated its support for the peace process. Regional and international unity is critical if peace and security in Yemen are to be secured.

I commend the courageous efforts of Yemeni civil society, which continues to push for peace in spite of many security challenges. In June, the Yemeni Women's Pact continued to promote a spirit of compromise as well as mechanisms that could put an end to this devastating conflict. I also recently met in Amman with a group of Yemeni youth activists who, while expressing sympathy for the suffering of the Yemeni people, also demonstrate the same commitment and dedication. Yemeni civil-society groups are in constant contact with my team and me. They recognize that only a political solution can end the war and the suffering of the Yemeni people. Their drive and sense of nationalism carries with it a great deal of hope.

I wish that the political leaders would mirror these activists' love of their nation and its people, which I sense with each and every proposal I receive from civil society. These groups are the true voices of Yemen, far removed from personal concerns and considerations. They convey the suffering of the people from the farthest corners of the country.

The political leadership must recognize that the continuation of the war can lead only to more human and physical loss, and complicate crucial questions on the future of Yemen, including the grievances of the south. In that context, the southern question requires a deeply considered solution, and I call on all Yemenis to address it through dialogue and other peaceful means.

Finally, I would like to note that history will not judge kindly those Yemeni leaders who have used the war to increase their influence or profit from public finances, and the patience of the people of Yemen will not last. The people need an alternative to politicians who destroy their country instead of build it. The justifications are not convincing and the excuses are not acceptable, especially since there is still an opportunity to achieve peace.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Mr. Ould Cheikh Ahmed for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: I thank Special Envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed for his briefing, with which I fully align myself.

Millions of Yemeni civilians — women, children and men — continue to be exposed to unfathomable pain and suffering. Cholera and the risk of famine remain acute in all but one of the 23 governorates across the country. In the midst of this, each day millions of people in Yemen are struggling to survive the conflict, the poverty and the end-of-their-tether grind just to survive one day at a time. Seven million people, including 2.3 million malnourished children, of whom 500,000 are severely malnourished, under the age of five, are on the cusp of famine, vulnerable to disease and ultimately at risk of a slow and painful death. Nearly 16 million people do not have access to adequate water, sanitation or hygiene, and more than 320,000 suspected cholera cases have been reported in all of the country's districts bar one. At least 1,740 people already are known to have died from this entirely preventable disease, probably many more in the many very remote areas of Yemen, which we cannot reach.

Yemen is facing critical stoppages in hospitals and a lack of doctors and nurses. The health system has essentially collapsed, with an estimated 55 per cent of facilities closed due to damage, destruction or lack of funds. Approximately 30,000 health-care workers have not been paid in nearly a year, and no funding has been provided to keep basic infrastructure, such as hospitals and water-pumping and sanitation stations, operating. At what point will the parties shoulder their responsibilities to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure — hospitals, medical facilities and schools — and to provide basic services for the population? At what point will those supporting the parties to the conflict take the necessary action — or, perhaps more important, desist from their violent actions? This cholera scandal is entirely man-made by the conflicting parties and those beyond Yemen's borders who are leading, supplying, fighting and perpetuating the fear and the fighting.

Over 120 humanitarian partners in Yemen are delivering coordinated assistance out of five hubs — in Aden, Hudaydah, Ibb, Saada and Sana'a. From January to April, humanitarian partners reached 4.3 million people. However, at a time when the Yemen humanitarian response plan is only 33 per cent funded, that is $688 million out of the $2.1 billion required, humanitarian workers have had to use resources programmed for food security or malnutrition to combat the unprecedented cholera outbreak, which has surged beyond initial estimates. Funding to the appeal is critical to ensure that lifesaving aid reaches all those in need, wherever and whoever they are. Fresh funds are needed to scale up further, pledges made in Geneva at the April conference must be turned into cash now. And the United Nations and its partners must be allowed to use funds flexibly to tackle the multitude of crises the conflict has created. The cholera response alone now needs an additional $250 million, of which only $47 million has been received and is being deployed and used up as we speak.

I repeat my call made last time I briefed the Council six weeks ago (see S/PV.7954). If only I did not have to repeat it. There has been change since then, only, sadly, for the dramatically worse.

First, notwithstanding the World Bank's commitment of $866 million to assist Yemen and the United States lifting of the freeze on access to Yemen's foreign currency reserves, public servants need to be paid immediately, and health facilities need to be reopened and restarted. A failure to do so will result in further preventable deaths. The United Nations and partners cannot replace State functions. There is no time to lose in ensuring that those payments are made.

Secondly, there is a need to ensure the protection of the Yemeni people and critical infrastructure. For as long as military actions continue, all parties must comply with their responsibilities under international humanitarian law and human rights law, and all States must exert their influence to ensure the parties do so. Today they are not doing so, and that must change.

Thirdly, there is a need to ensure that all ports and land routes remain open for both humanitarian and commercial imports in a predictable and stable manner. That includes continuing efforts to avert an attack on Hudaydah, to re-open Sana'a airport and for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to release airspace and getting the paid-for, desperately needed mobile cranes to Hudaydah port, rather than leaving them sitting useless and rotting on the Dubai quayside.

As I have said before, this is a man-made crisis. The sheer scale of the humanitarian suffering of the Yemeni people is a direct result of the conflict and serious violations of international law. Humankind simply cannot continue to lose out to politics. The United Nations Verification and Inspection Mechanism has all the necessary checks and balances to ensure the flow of commercial goods into the country via Red Sea ports, in particular into Hudaydah. It is, and will be, inhumane and irresponsible for parties to impede the delivery of food and fuel into the country.

The international community must do more — words are insufficient — to ensure that the parties are upholding their obligations under international humanitarian law. The Council has a primary responsibility for this, as well as its responsibility to maintain international peace and security, which is, frankly, patently failing in Yemen. Approximately 20 million people depend on the Council's concrete action to end the conflict. To do that, the Council will have to lean much more heavily and effectively on the parties and those outside Yemen who are leading this policy and action. Just for the sake of reaching all the millions with the cholera vaccines, which are so desperately needed, the people of Yemen need stability so we can reach many of them at all. A failure to do so will render their fate and our — the Council's — ability to intervene useless and hopeless. We should all feel deeply guilty about that. The conflicting parties in Yemen especially should do so, as should those who drive them from outside Yemen. Our — the Council's — joint top common priority should be always to save civilian lives and to protect them — the Yemeni people deserve this as equally as any other citizen of the world, just as any representative around this table or someone cowering in fear somewhere in Sana'a or Taiz in Yemen.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Mr. O'Brien for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. Ghebreyesus.

Mr. Ghebreyesus: I am grateful for this opportunity to brief the Security Council on the health situation in Yemen, where a cholera outbreak of unprecedented scale continues. The outbreak is being driven by conflict, the collapse of basic public services and malnutrition. Two years of conflict have devastated the lives of ordinary people and left nearly 15 million without access to basic

health care. Almost the same number of people do not have regular access to clean water and sanitation. They have no choice but to drink dirty water, thus continuing the cycle of disease.

Cholera flourishes in a weakened health system. We are witnessing the second wave of an outbreak that first started in October 2016 and has led to more than 1,700 deaths, as pointed out earlier by Mr. O'Brien, and more than 300,000 suspected cases in recent months. It has affected 21 of the 23 governorates and 286 of the 333 districts. Almost the entire country is affected. The largest number of cases are in Amanat Al Asimah, Al Hudaydah, Hajjah, Amran and Ibb — those five governorates make up 55 per cent of the total of 300,000 cases. The World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF and other partners are working with Yemeni authorities to detect and track the spread of the disease and reach people with medical treatment, safe water and adequate sanitation and hygiene practices. WHO and UNICEF are supporting more than 600 cholera treatment centres and oral-rehydration therapy sites in the most affected districts across the nation, and we plan to open another 500 centres. In addition, our quick-response teams have been trained and deployed. Emergency operation centres have been activated in Sana'a and priority governorates. More than 400 tons of critical lifesaving supplies have been delivered, including intravenous fluids and treatment kits, and more than 5 million people have been supported to access safe water.

At the same time, there is a shortage of doctors and nurses to help treat and care for those who are ill. Some have fled the country, yet many continue to come to work, even though they have not been paid for more than 10 months. WHO and UNICEF are paying incentives, travel costs, overtime and other allowances whenever they can in order to help to get them through this period, but that is not a sustainable solution. Other challenges include the fact that more than 55 per cent of all health facilities are closed or only partially functional. There are no doctors in 49 of the 333 districts. The supply chain is hampered by restrictions on imports and logistics, as well as limited numbers of implementing partners and funding. The ongoing conflict makes the challenge worse, because it is difficult to reach those in need. Consequently, we have four major requests of the Council today.

First of all, we call for an expedited political process to bring an immediate end to the conflict — so that people cannot only survive, but thrive. Secondly, in areas of continuing conflict, we must ensure that civilian infrastructure, such as water, sanitation and health facilities, are always protected, in accordance with international humanitarian law. Thirdly, donors need to not only quickly honour the pledges they made at the high-level event regarding Yemen in April, but also to provide funds for the crisis in a more flexible manner. Ensuring that workers are paid and given incentives to remain at their posts is a critical issue. Those brave professionals need our help so that they can continue to serve their communities. Lastly, we must provide political and financial support for long-term recovery and development. The partnership between the World Bank, UNICEF and WHO on revitalizing the health sector provides a useful model. We need to rebuild the country's health and sanitation systems so that we can prevent and better contain future health risks. We have agreed, with the World Bank, UNICEF and the World Food Programme, to visit Yemen as soon as possible. WHO, UNICEF and partners are doing all they can to save lives and support the health system, but without peace there will be no end to the suffering of the people.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Mr. Ghebreyesus for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. Da Silva.

Mr. Da Silva: I am thankful for this opportunity to brief the Security Council on the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on Yemen for the period under review. I will address two specific situations. The first is hunger and the second involves our work in the field with agricultural and livestock issues.

With regard to hunger, as was already mentioned, 17 million people are estimated to be severely food insecure in Yemen, according to an assessment in March, an increase of 20 per cent over the previous assessment in June of last year. We believe that the number has greatly increased since the most recent assessment, in March. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification systems categorizes the level of food insecurity into five phases, with phase 5 being famine. Of the 17 million who fall into phases 3 and 4, 7 million — about 40 per cent — are in phase 4, very close to famine. We have also reported that people are already dying of hunger in many of the areas of Abyan, Taiz, Shabwa and Hajjah governorates, which represent three quarters of the 7 million that are bordering on

famine. The prospects are not good because, unless they receive food aid immediately or cash, those people will experience famine-like conditions — phase 5.

Secondly, I would like to give a broad overview of what is happening in the field. We are seeing ongoing conflict in many important food-producing areas, which makes the movement of food supplies to local markets even more difficult, leading to scarcity and spiralling prices. Crop production last year fell by approximately 40 per cent of what was produced in those areas before the conflict. Because of poor rains, we expect that the harvest will be even lower this year. The prospect for this summer season's production is still very low, owing to the combination of the poor rains and the reduced access to farmlands — as farmers can simply not access their lands. In addition, water scarcity is currently one of the main challenges in Yemen. Moreover, the lack of proper sanitation is leading to an increased risk of disease, not only among human beings but also herds. FAO is particularly worried about the collapse in veterinary services, which in turn is increasing the number of high-impact diseases in the area — ovine rinderpest, brucellosis, goat pox and foot-and-mouth disease, to mention but a few that are transmissible to human beings. Unless we take steps to address the conflict now, we will never truly eradicate hunger in Yemen.

By way of conclusion, we would like to highlight two main points. First, we all have limited funding and, worse, limited assets. We simply cannot act where we are most needed. Secondly, if we do not address the capacity of those in rural areas, who, more or less, account for 70 per cent of the country's population, there will be no prospects for a better future. If we do not have a good season this year because of the lack of rain, we will have even worse results in the future. Let me conclude by saying that we save lives by saving livelihoods. It is very important to protect livelihoods in areas where people live if we want to prevent the situation from becoming worse in the near future.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Mr. Da Silva for his briefing.

I shall now give the floor to those Council members who wish to make statements.

Mr. Rosselli (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, I would like to thank the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Mr. Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed; the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Mr. José Graziano da Silva; the Director-General of the World Health Organization, Mr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus; and the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mr. Stephen O'Brien, for their briefings.

I would especially like to thank you, Sir, for having convened today's briefing.

The tragic situation in Yemen must continue to be the subject of ongoing public scrutiny by the Security Council and by the Members of the Organization. Our most recent presidential statement on this topic was issued on 15 June (S/PRST/2017/7). It is a long statement, which describes the entire situation in Yemen and the opinion of the Security Council on the steps to be taken. Just two days after the statement was issued, actions certainly spoke louder than words and could almost be interpreted as a direct response it. I will now read from a statement provided to us by Mr. McGoldrick, the Humanitarian Coordinator in Yemen:

> "On 17 June, at least 22 civilians, including six children, were reported killed and injured in a series of air attacks on a market in Saada governorate, near the border with Saudi Arabia. There were no reported military targets in the proximity of the market at the time of the attack and no warning was issued to civilians in the area".

The statement mentioned air attacks. As far as we know, the so-called Yemeni rebels do not have air assets. That means that the attacks were perpetrated by some other group operating in the region. According to the information we have, Yemeni President Mr. Mansour Hadi exercises no control whatsoever over air operations being carried out in his country. We do not know what type of strategic value a market could have that would justify such an attack. Nonetheless, it is time to demand that those who carry out such barbaric attacks and those who provide logistical support and weaponry immediately cease such actions, which are a violation of international humanitarian law.

We endorse the call to the international community made in August 2016 by Mr. Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to establish a mechanism to investigate violations of fundamental rights committed in Yemen. The perpetrators of such gross violations of international humanitarian law must be held accountable for their crimes. The Security Council has all of the

competencies required to establish impartial and transparent mechanisms to investigate the violations of international humanitarian law reported in Yemen and committed by both parties to the conflict.

There is no military solution to the conflict. It is through negotiations and peace talks alone that peace will be restored to the Yemeni people. Nonetheless, the parties are showing no signs of reaching an agreement that would lead to a political solution, without preconditions and in good faith, to end this protracted conflict. Actors must assume that concessions must be made in order to break the deadlock.

More than two years of conflict in Yemen have caused not only a humanitarian disaster and the most serious food insecurity crisis in the world, with millions of people needing food aid daily in order to survive; the violence has also weakened Yemen and has affected the lives of millions of Yemenis.

Our own sensitivity is yet another victim of the tragic events in Yemen. Here at the United Nations, we have become accustomed to creating euphemisms so we talk about food insecurity when we are really describing a complete dearth of food. We talk about people who are food insecure, instead of saying that they do not have food to meet basic daily dietary requirements.

In this brutal war, the lives of people in vulnerable groups, such as women and children, are seriously and adversely affected by ongoing hostilities and the humanitarian crisis. According to recent reports, education and health, which has worsened by an outbreak of cholera, and the nutrition of children are all under threat. Uruguay takes this opportunity to commend and support the work of the newly appointed Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Ms. Virginia Gamba, and awaits her annual report. In that regard, Uruguay trusts that this year, a comprehensive list of all parties that commit serious violations against children in Yemen will be issued. In spite of the calls of the international community, the Yemeni people continue to endure widespread violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

In conclusion, I reiterate Uruguay's support for the work carried out by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Mr. Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, and thank him for his tireless efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict. At the same time, once again, Uruguay deeply thanks and acknowledges all humanitarian workers and institutions in Yemen for their courageous efforts to assist the millions of victims of a terrible conflict.

Mr. Llorentty Soliz (Plurinational State of Bolivia) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation would like to thank the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Mr. Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed; the Director General of the World Health Organization, Mr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus; the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Mr. José Graziano da Silva; and the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mr. Stephen O'Brien for their briefings.

We also thank you, Sir, not only for having convened this meeting, but also for having come up with the format including the relevant experts who have provided briefings on the situation in Yemen, thereby giving us a broad idea of what is happening not only from the humanitarian, food and health perspective, but also with regard to the political situation and the tragedy that the Yemeni people are enduring.

The situation in Yemen remains critical, and the statistics — such as those concerning the cholera outbreak, as described in the latest briefings presented to the Council in May (see S/PV.7954) — have surpassed projections to an alarming extent. According to information published by the International Committee of the Red Cross on 11 July, it is estimated that more than 313,000 people are suspected to be ill with cholera, while to date more than 1,700 people have lost their lives to the disease. That statistic is four times greater than the figure recorded by the World Health Organization (WHO) — 361 persons — for the months of April and May. Even more concerning is the fact that the number of those who have succumbed to cholera in Yemen alone — 1,304 — is greater than the total number of deaths resulting from the disease in the entire world in 2015 , as reported by WHO.

That terrible situation is but one of the many aspects arising from the conflict in Yemen, and it has been exacerbated by the lack of access to water, sanitation and basic services, and, above all, by the precariousness of the availability of medical services to the population — as illustrated by the statistic cited today that only 45 per cent of hospitals are operating while lacking the resources necessary to respond to the tragic situation. Unfortunately, added to that is the

disturbing lack of food; according to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, more than 17 million people are living in food insecurity, of whom 7 million — as Mr. Graziano da Silva mentioned — are at risk of famine.

It is important to recall that, according to the 29 June report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the conflict has resulted in approximately 2 million internally displaced persons, while 18.8 million people — the most vulnerable cross-section of the population and at the greatest risk of falling ill from malnutrition — require access to humanitarian assistance. In that regard, we note with great concern that even though the Council expressed its position on the subject in presidential statement S/PRST/2017/7 on 15 June, humanitarian assistance deployed in Yemen continues to be affected by the imposition of restrictions and arbitrary unilateral measures between the parties involved in the conflict. We also continue to be alarmed by the constant threat of aerial attacks on civilian infrastructure, which limits and obstructs access to humanitarian assistance, which the Yemeni population needs.

We reiterate our call on the parties and actors involved in the conflict to comply with and respect the provisions of resolution 2140 (2014) and to make every effort to commit to a sustained dialogue leading to an inclusive, orderly and political transition directed and led by the Yemeni people, which satisfies their legitimate demands and aspirations, while respecting at all times the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Yemen.

In today's briefings, we have heard all of the consequences of the conflict. I believe that it is important for the Security Council to also analyse the causes and the situations that led to the conflict. The representative of Uruguay made several statements with which we fully agree. It important for us to receive reports after investigations pertaining to those responsible for the bombings and those providing weapons to the parties.

Although we can incessantly repeat that there is no military solution to the conflict, the fact that we have said it does not mean that we are going to end the military offensives. Regrettably, this is a war that continues to be passed over in silence. It is not part of the day-to-day reality outside of the Chamber. That fact is not only striking, but also clearly shows the limitations of our work on the Security Council. We hope that, beyond our statements and declarations, we will be able to take a specific action so that, only a few weeks from now, we will not sit down again merely to hear that the situation is deteriorating and the conflict escalating.

Mr. Skoog (Sweden): I would first like to thank Special Envoy Ould Cheikh Ahmed for his briefing this morning and for his efforts to politically end the conflict in Yemen, which is in a situation going from a very bad — even desperate — situation to an even worse one. I would also like to thank Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Graziano da Silva and Mr. Ghebreyesus for their valuable contributions today. I would like to say to them that we pay tribute to the United Nations and all humanitarian actors present on the ground, who continue to deliver live-saving support to all those in need in what are very challenging circumstances.

This morning's briefings warrant action on several fronts. First, we all know that a political solution is the only way to end the conflict in Yemen. We therefore reiterate our continued support for the Special Envoy and his efforts for a resumed United Nations-led political process and a durable cessation of hostilities. As the Security Council stated in presidential statement S/PRST/2017/7 one month ago, it is time for the parties to resume peace talks and engage constructively and in good faith. As we all know, women's participation in such talks is crucial.

Secondly, as our briefers clearly reminded us today, the humanitarian situation in Yemen has further deteriorated since we last met (see S/PV.7974), and that was only six weeks ago. It is a man-made tragedy, and, as often happens in cases of armed conflict today, the civilian population and children in particular are the main victims. We are horrified by the rapid spread of cholera to all of Yemen's governorates. It has been described as the worst cholera outbreak in the world. When Mr. O'Brien spoke to the Council on 30 May (see S/PV.7954), only a little more than a month ago, he reported 55,000 suspected cases, and it has now surged to over 300,000. That increase is as much as 15,000 to 20,000 per day with more than 1,700 associated deaths in just 75 days.

We also know that Yemen is on the brink of famine. Yemen is the largest food-insecurity emergency in the world, and more than 17 million people — approximately two-thirds of the population — are food insecure, while 6.8 million Yemenis are living just one step away from famine. We therefore need to immediately deliver funds.

We call on donors to deliver on their commitments made at the pledging conference for Yemen held in Geneva on 25 April, which we, the Swedish and Swiss Foreign Ministers, hosted together with the Secretary-General, but even the commitments we and others made in Geneva will not be sufficient to meet the enormous humanitarian needs. We therefore call for additional funding to the United Nations humanitarian response plan for Yemen.

Finally, in addition to more funding, there is an urgent need for greater humanitarian access and full respect for international humanitarian law. We repeat the Council's call on all parties, issued last month in presidential statement S/PRST/2017/7, for safe, rapid, unhindered and sustained humanitarian access and for facilitated access to essential food, fuel and medical supplies throughout the country, in accordance with international humanitarian law. It is important to keep all of Yemen's ports functioning, including Hudaydah port, as a critical lifeline for the humanitarian response.

The parties now need to comply urgently with international humanitarian law and human rights law. We remain concerned about the high number of deaths of civilians and the damage to civilian infrastructure, particularly medical facilities and personnel. Medical facilities are needed not only to give medical care, but also to fight cholera. As the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator in Yemen stated recently, "we must give hope to millions of Yemenis by showing that the world is not indifferent to their suffering".

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of Yemen.

Mr. Alyemany (Yemen) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would first like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your wise conduct of the work of the Council this month, and to thank you for giving us this opportunity to speak to the Council.

Almost two and a half years since the bloody coup in Yemen — led by Houthi militias allied with our country's former President and supported by Iran, a State that is a sponsor of terrorism around the world — my country is currently dealing with an extremely serious and complex health and humanitarian situation. Today Yemen is making headlines because of the death, poverty and disease that the militias have brought on us since September 2014. The environmental health and humanitarian situation in regions under the control of the coup's leaders has been complicated even further by an outbreak of cholera that has killed hundreds of Yemenis.

Despite the international community's appeals and the intensified efforts of the World Health Organization, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the World Food Programme and the King Salman Center for Humanitarian Aid and Relief, the militias continue to reject cooperation and subjugate our people to dangerous blackmail. They believe that making these health and humanitarian disasters as bad as possible will force the international community to come up with a solution that will enable them to sue for a political compromise.

Today it is more urgent than ever to achieve peace in Yemen, based on the three locally, regionally and internationally agreed-on terms of reference — the Initiative of the Gulf Cooperation Council and its Implementation Mechanism, the national dialogue outcomes and the relevant Security Council resolutions, particularly resolution 2216 (2015). They remain the main drivers of the efforts of the United Nations and the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Yemen, all of which the Yemeni Government fully supports with a view to making progress towards peace.

Our Government continues to be ready to make all necessary concessions, however difficult, to achieve the peace that the great and resilient Yemeni people deserve, because we believe that war is the choice of fools and peace the choice of the brave. We therefore stressed in our communiqué of 3 June that we would continue to support the efforts of Special Envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, and when he met with our President in May we emphasized our support for his latest proposals and ideas. They include the withdrawal of militias from Hudaydah governorate, as discussed in last year's peace consultations in Kuwait, and the establishment of a technical committee of economic and financial experts to help the Government establish an appropriate and urgently needed mechanism to pay employee salaries and address the problem of livelihoods in regions controlled by the coup leaders, in order to provide the income needed to cover such expenses. In its presidential statement of 15 June (S/PRST/2017/7), the Security Council stressed its support for the Special Envoy and his recommendations for peace. Unfortunately, however, the Houthi-Saleh coalition has rejected those proposals.

I have outlined the position of the Yemeni Government — its quest for sustainable peace and an end to a war that was never of our choosing, but was imposed on us — to the Council over and over again. The Houthi militias have turned a blind eye to all the options for peace and all the sacrifices and concessions that our President has made in an effort to avoid a foolish war in which the biggest loser is the great Yemeni people. Despite all of this, we will continue to extend our hand and choose the path of a just, comprehensive and peaceful solution based on the terms of reference — one that paves the way for a genuine peace and does not lead to a fool's war, accept blackmail or reward the coup leaders, terrorists and gangs for violating our State's national sovereignty.

The only way to reach a sustainable solution to the crisis and the war is by addressing their root causes. I must emphasize how crucial we consider the current cooperation between our Government and the United Nations and all its agencies in Yemen. I would like to take this opportunity to express our deep gratitude to all the United Nations workers in Yemen who continue to fulfil their noble humanitarian responsibilities in dealing with the cholera outbreak, despite the desperate conditions. We are expecting an important visit from Mr. Anthony Lake, Executive Director of UNICEF, and Mr. David Beasley, Executive Director of the World Food Programme, in the next few days.

However, I feel compelled to note the inadequate performance of the Office of the Resident Coordinator, a subject that we have continually brought up in our letters to the Secretariat, most recently in our communiqué of 26 June, which calls the Resident Coordinator's work unprofessional, biased and politicized, ignoring as it does the tragic situation that the militias have caused, particularly in Taiz, which has now been under siege for more than two years, as well as the deaths and displacement of women, children and the elderly in the indiscriminate shelling in June of civilian services and hospital facilities by the Houthi militias.

The Yemeni coalition monitoring human rights violations has documented 917 violations by Houthis, resulting in 187 civilians killed and another 205 injured, as well as 236 kidnapped and 33 who have been the victims of forced disappearance. We continue to document a growing number of children recruited by Houthis, and the Office of the Special Envoy has updated us on those numbers. It is distressing to see the numbers, which grow daily, of children among the victims in Taiz and other regions, and of the disappeared and those who are detained in Houthi prisons. And yet the conscience of the international community has not yet driven it to raise its voice in protest at such violations of human rights, and the deafening silence continues, as if it were normal to consider that international humanitarian law does not apply in Yemen and that the international community does not care about Yemenis.

Under the leadership of President Mansour, the Government of Yemen considers it vital to mobilize international and Arab support in order to address the deteriorating humanitarian situation and the cholera outbreak in every region of Yemen. The challenges that we have been facing exceed our capacity to address them. We therefore call on the international community to provide assistance and devote greater attention to this issue. To date only 33.3 per cent of the United Nations humanitarian response plan for Yemen 2017 has been funded, despite the fact that we are in the second half of the year. I therefore appeal to the human conscience and to all States Members of the United Nations to swiftly cover the remaining requirements of the plan for the current year. We call upon those States that made pledges at the Geneva conference to rapidly fulfil their commitments to the United Nations, so that we can overcome the cholera epidemic and famine in Yemen.

Allow me to express our thanks and appreciation to Secretary-General António Guterres, donor countries, the Friends of Yemen, the King Salman Centre for Humanitarian Aid and Relief, UNICEF, the World Health Organization, the World Food Programme and other relief agencies in the brotherly United Arab Emirates and Kuwait for swiftly responding to the consequences of the humanitarian situation and the cholera outbreak in Yemen.

In conclusion, I should like to stress once again that a sustainable, effective and genuine solution to the situation in Yemen requires that the reasons for the coup be addressed and national political reconciliation ensured, as well as a return to legitimacy, the restoration of State institutions and the normalization of living conditions through a peace process that puts an end to the hijacking of our State by Tehran-backed militias. This requires also that the international community bring pressure to bear on the Houthis and Mr. Saleh to resume, and genuinely engage in, the dialogue for peace and make concessions for the sake of Yemen.

We appreciate the efforts of the Security Council and the group of 18, and we thank the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and other States of the Arab coalition for their efforts to support legitimacy in Yemen. We call upon all members of the Security Council to continue to make unified efforts to end the Yemeni crisis by taking a firm stance against the masterminds of the coup and to bring greater pressure to bear on them in order to ensure that they comply with all resolutions of international legitimacy and international humanitarian law.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 11.10 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.8000

Security Council

Distr.: General
13 July 2017

Original: English

Official communiqué of the 8000th (closed) meeting of the Security Council

Held in private at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 13 July 2017, at 10 a.m.

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record:

"On 13 July 2017, the Security Council, pursuant to annex II, sections A and B of resolution 1353 (2001), held its 8000th meeting in private with the troop- and police-contributing countries to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus.

"The President invited Ms. Elizabeth Spehar, Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, to participate in the meeting in accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

"The Security Council and the troop- and police-contributing countries heard a briefing by Ms. Spehar."

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United Nations S/PV.8001

Security Council

Seventy-second year

Provisional

8001 st meeting

Thursday, 13 July 2017, 11 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Wu Haitao	(China)
Members:	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Mr. Llorentty Soliz
	Egypt	Mr. Moustafa
	Ethiopia	Mr. Alemu
	France	Mr. Michon
	Italy	Mr. Cardi
	Japan	Mr. Kawamura
	Kazakhstan	Mr. Umarov
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Senegal	Mr. Seck
	Sweden	Mr. Vaverka
	Ukraine	Mr. Yelchenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Hickey
	United States of America	Ms. Sison
	Uruguay	Mr. Bermúdez

Agenda

The situation in the Central African Republic

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council. Corrections* should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

17-21309 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Central African Republic

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Council has before it the text of a statement by the President on behalf of the Council on the subject of today's meeting. I thank Council members for their valuable contributions to the statement.

In accordance with the understanding reached among the members of the Council, I shall take it that the members of the Security Council agree to the statement, which will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2017/9.

The meeting rose at 11.05 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.8002

Security Council

Seventy-second year

Provisional

8002nd meeting
Thursday, 13 July 2017, 11.05 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Wu Haitao	(China)
Members:	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Mr. Llorentty Solíz
	Egypt	Mr. Moustafa
	Ethiopia	Mr. Alemu
	France	Mr. Michon
	Italy	Mr. Cardi
	Japan	Mr. Kawamura
	Kazakhstan	Mr. Umarov
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Senegal	Mr. Seck
	Sweden	Mr. Vaverka
	Ukraine	Mr. Yelchenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Hickey
	United States of America	Ms. Sison
	Uruguay	Mr. Bermúdez

Agenda

Peace consolidation in West Africa

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (S/2017/563)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council. Corrections* should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

17-21321 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Peace consolidation in West Africa

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (S/2017/563)

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2017/563, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel.

I now give the floor to Mr. Chambas.

Mr. Chambas: Despite laudable progress in democratic consolidation, the security situation in West Africa and the Sahel remains a cause for concern. The efforts of Member States of the region to deliver on development, improve infrastructure, create jobs and strengthen human security are being hampered by traditional and new drivers of conflict and insecurity.

Terrorism and violent extremism, in addition to the humanitarian crisis and threats to State integrity that they generate, have exacerbated traditional threats. These factors, combined with climate change, youth bulge and unemployment, and unchecked urbanization constitute veritable push factors underpinning the surge in irregular migration and human trafficking.

In the Sahel, persistent instability in Mali is spilling over into Burkina Faso and the Niger, with deadly attacks along border areas. The Liptako-Gourma region, linking Mali with Burkina Faso and the Niger, has experienced a significant expansion of violent extremist and terrorist activities in the past few months, including coordinated cross-border attacks against security posts and the ransacking of border settlements. Violent extremist groups targeted the northern provinces of Soum, Loroum and Yatenga in Burkina Faso and the western regions of Tillabéry and Tahoua in the Niger. Insecurity in those border areas has detrimental effects on the local economy.

The leaders of the three countries met in Niamey on 24 January under the auspices of the Liptako-Gourma authority and announced that they would be setting up a multinational stabilization force. That announcement came against the backdrop of ongoing discussions on the operationalization of the Group of Five States for the Sahel joint force, an initiative that encompasses all three Liptako-Gourma countries, as well as Chad and Mauritania, and which the Security Council welcomed through the adoption of resolution 2359 (2017) of 21 June. I would like to commend the countries of the Sahel for their continuous efforts to tackle security challenges at the national and regional levels. More support is needed to assist them in that challenging task.

The Lake Chad basin remains an equally challenging pole of insecurity. Despite the commendable efforts of the Multinational Joint Task Force, which have substantially degraded Boko Haram's capabilities, shrunk its geographical reach and freed thousands of captives, recent attacks in Maiduguri and the Diffa region demonstrate that Boko Haram continues to pose a serious threat to the area. The mode and sophistication of those attacks have raised suspicions that the Boko Haram militants might have acquired reinforcements.

That situation continues to have devastating humanitarian consequences. Up to 5.2 million women, men and innocent boys and girls, many of whom have been displaced across the Lake Chad basin, are struggling for their very subsistence. The failure to provide basic services and viable livelihood opportunities for communities in affected areas risks derailing recent successes against Boko Haram. The Lake Chad Basin Commission regeneration plan offers a useful framework of cooperation to tackle the root causes of the worsening security environment.

In January, five field workers of the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission were killed in an attack by unidentified armed elements near Kontcha, a region that was believed to be unaffected by the Boko Haram threat. While investigation into the matter is ongoing, the United Nations is working closely with the authorities of Cameroon and Nigeria to strengthen the security protocol for the resumption of border pillar construction in the area.

The threat of terrorist and violent extremist groups should not divert our attention from other pressing security threats, such as the intercommunal tensions witnessed in several countries. Clashes between farmers and herders across the region threaten to undermine peace, social cohesion and food security. The United Nations continues to advocate for a regional solution, while at the same time supporting the countries of the region in strengthening their national peace architecture.

West Africa and the Sahel also continue to be negatively affected by transnational organized crime and other cross-cutting threats to peace and security. Smugglers of drugs, human beings and weapons continue to criss-cross borders and establish new operational zones where the State has withdrawn or maintains only a tentative presence. Insecurity and lawlessness also stretch to the Gulf of Guinea, where criminal elements increasingly resort to piracy and hostage-taking.

In that context, let me stress that the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel presents a multidimensional approach to addressing the challenges of governance, security and resilience in the region. The implementation of the Strategy has registered notable progress. I chaired two meetings of the Steering Committee in May and June, which agreed on a clear division of responsibilities among United Nations entities for advocacy, strategic guidance and programmatic activities. While aiming to streamline efforts and reduce duplication among the various actors in the Sahel, the United Nations is also focusing on linking the Ministerial Coordination Platform of Sahel Strategies to the mechanisms of the United Nations Strategy. At the same time, the respective United Nations country teams are stepping up efforts to ensure tangible results at the country level.

In Burkina Faso and The Gambia, the United Nations continues to pursue the sustaining peace approach in support of the priorities of the respective Governments. The United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) is focusing on complementing ongoing development interventions by the United Nations country teams with targeted political interventions and institutional strengthening in politically sensitive areas such as justice and the rule of law, security sector reform and national reconciliation.

In the context of transitions from peacekeeping, I have already liaised with authorities in Côte d'Ivoire, and I plan to visit the country soon after today's briefing to the Security Council. My objective will be to work with Ivoirian stakeholders to sustain the country's strong recovery and to bolster peace and security efforts. In the light of the recent mutinies that have threatened the so far impressive recovery of the country, continuous support to deepen the reform of the defence and security sector, as well as national reconciliation and disarmament efforts, is imperative.

Constitutional review efforts in the subregion should be conducted in an inclusive, participatory and transparent manner to strengthen the foundations for democratic governance. I have continuously engaged with national stakeholders, civil society and diplomatic partners throughout the subregion, with a view to building consensus on this and other critical issues. I remain hopeful that countries in the region will accelerate progress towards fully implementing regional standards and respective national legislation on promoting the participation of women in decision-making, as well as overall respect for human rights, including the effective integration of youth in political and development processes.

In conclusion, let me assure the Council that UNOWAS will continue to work closely with all stakeholders and development partners in the region to help consolidate peace and stability in West Africa and the Sahel. I also reiterate my appeal to partners to maintain their engagement, including through financial support, to continue saving lives and to promote sustainable solutions.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Mr. Chambas for his briefing.

I now give the floor to those Council members who wish to make statements.

Mr. Bermúdez (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, I would like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, for his thorough briefing. The events and trends in West Africa and the Sahel in the last period show the countries' commitment to sustainable peace and stability in the region. It is for good reason that we recently attended the closure of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, just as the Liberia mission is withdrawing from its ground operations.

Uruguay wishes to congratulate the Government and the people of The Gambia for the swearing in of President Adama Barrow in January, and hails his commitment and efforts to promote human rights and fundamental liberties. A few days ago, from this very Chamber, we also commended the people and the Government of Côte d'Ivoire for the progress made in peacebuilding and conveyed our wishes for success in this new stage for the country.

Uruguay wishes to underscore the key importance of democratic principles in the region and the institutional stability that underpins such principles. In that regard, we particularly encourage the political leaders of Guinea Bissau to find a political solution to the crisis that is based on inclusive and constructive dialogue. We must not lose sight of the fact that it is the country's civilian population that bears the brunt of the consequences of protracted political stagnation.

As for security, we are concerned about the instability in the Lake Chad basin in the Sahel and crime in the Gulf of Guinea. We applaud regional countries' work in creating the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel (G-5 Sahel) and the Multinational Joint Task Force, as well as for their work in the West Africa Coast Initiative. Uruguay understands that regional countries face enormous security challenges and that many improvements are in order. Nonetheless, it is our view that the political will to join regional forces in pursuit of a common goal is noteworthy and is to be supported. We are encouraged by the progress in the fight against Boko Haram — in particular by the release of another 82 girls that had been abducted in Chibok. Their rehabilitation and social reintegration are essential. We also emphatically condemn the terrorist group's cowardly practice of using women and girls as suicide bombers.

The increased cooperation between the United Nations and the G-5 Sahel shows the commitment of the international community with that initiative and is an implicit recognition that the efforts of its member countries are on the right track. The Security Council itself was able to see, through its visits to missions ending in March 2016 and March 2017 in Bissau, Mali, Senegal and, this year, the Lake Chad basin countries, the enormous challenges that those countries and Governments face.

Our talk with the Special Representative in March was also quite useful, when he was starting to work at the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel after the approved merge and proactively addressed anticipated challenges. As the Special Representative aptly noted, the humanitarian situation in the region is worrisome and is exacerbated by the effects of climate change and insecurity — particularly in north-eastern Nigeria and in the Sahel region. In that regard, we welcome the efforts of international partners that provide support and we call on them to fully honour the pledges made in the Oslo Humanitarian Conference for Nigeria and the Lake Chad Region in February.

Finally, we note that the effective implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel will be key to supporting the long-term stability of the entire region.

Mr. Umarov (Kazakhstan): I thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Chambas for his insightful briefing on the semi-annual report (S/2017/563) of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) and recent developments in West Africa and the Sahel.

Since the beginning of the year, we have witnessed significant positive developments throughout the region. We highly commend the good offices and important role that Mr. Chambas and UNOWAS have recently played in conflict prevention in The Gambia, Burkina Faso and other regional countries. Meanwhile, the situation of various parts of the West African Sahel remains fragile due to the threats of Boko Haram and other terrorist organizations.

Taking those risks into account, the work of UNOWAS may become even more challenging after the closure of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire and the United Nations Mission in Liberia. We believe that the establishment and deployment of the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel (G-5 Sahel) will positively contribute to maintaining stability in the region and helping UNOWAS to focus on conflict prevention, mediation and addressing cross-border security threats — including drug trafficking and piracy.

That can be only achieved through a more effective implementation of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel. Addressing impunity and corruption; advancing structural reforms and security, justice and the rule of law; promoting human rights; increasing resilience; and engaging women and young people are equally important tasks within the Strategy,

which could also serve as a model for achieving stability and development in other African countries.

Kazakhstan is convinced that this subregional and comprehensive approach, which links security, development and humanitarian efforts, is the most efficient way to achieve peace and prosperity. The Security Council's recent mission to the Lake Chad basin once again reaffirmed the necessity of a sub-regional and coordinated approach that focusses on the root causes of the conflict and promoting development. It is therefore essential to enhance coherence and cooperation among UNOWAS, the Peacebuilding Commission, the United Nations system as a whole, the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the G-5 Sahel, the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the Gulf of Guinea Commission, the West African Economic and Monetary Union and national Governments. We also need to mobilize international financial institutions and donor countries to ensure long-term sustainable funding.

Finally, Kazakhstan will work with the members of the Council and key actors to find a solution to achieve a lasting peace in West Africa and the Sahel.

Mr. Llorentty Solíz (Bolivia) (*spoke in Spanish*): Bolivia thanks the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), Mr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, for his briefing.

Bolivia is gratified by the leadership of countries of West Africa and the Sahel for their progress in implementing political, institutional and constitutional reforms. Côte d'Ivoire's path to peace is a case in point. The United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire successfully completed its mandate on 30 June. We hail the commitment of the United Nations presence in Côte d'Ivoire to support the Government and ensure the maintenance of peace and the prosperity of the country and its people.

Bolivia highlights the work of the UNOWAS in the areas of good governance, security, human rights, gender issues, preventive diplomacy and good offices. We also know that we need the support of all members of the international community to carry out that work. In that regard, we value the support of the United Nations, the Security Council and regional and subregional bodies — such as the African Union and its Peace and Security Council, the Economic Community of West African States, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Group of Five for the Sahel (G-5 Sahel) and other associated groups.

Where good governance is concerned, we would like to highlight the progress that has been made in areas such as the peaceful resolution of a post-election crisis in the Gambia, the preparations for elections in Liberia and Sierra Leone and the initiative to promote development in the region. With regard to initiatives on gender issues undertaken by the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel, we support and encourage its work in promoting women's participation in political processes for peace and security.

We also commend the work that UNOWAS has been doing in the areas of conflict prevention, mediation and exercise of its good offices, as well as the constitutional reforms that have been implemented in Benin, Burkina Faso, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The links that UNOWAS has established between best practices, interactive dialogues, preventive diplomacy and strengthened coordination between the parties concerned have made it possible to launch initiatives for peace and security as well as national ownership and inclusivity, paving the way for consolidating peaceful solutions within a democratic framework.

Bolivia supports the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel, as outlined in presidential statement S/PRST/2017/2, and we encourage the members of the G-5 Sahel to continue their work in coordination with the Secretary-General and the African Union, as laid down in resolution 2359 (2017). With regard to implementation of the strategy, we firmly believe that the current coalition of partners in the region, including the countries of the Sahel, regional organizations such as the African Union, the Economic Community of Central African States and ECOWAS, can contribute in ways that will make it possible to comprehensively tackle the region's political, economic, development and security challenges while also identifying the causes of instability there.

We are concerned about the complex of problems facing various countries in the region that are dealing with enormous challenges to their efforts to achieve peace and stability. Insecurity, transborder crime, human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants, and arms and drug trafficking are resulting in conflicts that have a negative effect on the region's population and development, on top of instability, terrible humanitarian situations and terrorism. Bolivia

condemns such actions, particularly terrorism, which can have no justification and represents a serious threat to international peace and security in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomever it is committed. We call for the full implementation of resolution 2349 (2017), of 31 March, in the fight against terrorist groups, including Boko Haram and Da'esh.

Bolivia would also like to emphasize that part of the reason for the serious crisis that the Sahel is dealing with is the consequence of interventionist policies in North Africa. It is impossible to discuss a crisis of this magnitude in that part of the world without taking into account the interventionist efforts in Libya, which have resulted in arms and mercenaries pouring into the region. Bolivia firmly rejects such interventionist and interfering policies, which destabilize and undermine international peace and security.

Lastly, we urge the States of West Africa and the Sahel to continue with their stabilization process with strict regard for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all of their members.

Mr. Iliichev (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We are grateful to Mr. Mohammed Ibn Chambas, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for his substantive and comprehensive report (S/2017/562). We agree with his assessment that the situation in the diverse and extensive region that he covers is a complex one. The terrorist threat remains acute, and eradicating it is one of the primary tasks on the regional agenda. Until then it will be impossible to achieve sustainable political stability or make substantive progress in solving the region's socioeconomic issues. We are concerned about the fact that various criminal groups, pirates and smugglers are working closely with terrorists, exploiting gaps in national and border security for their own illegal activity and essentially profiting from chaos, instability and the suffering of civilians.

All of that puts an additional burden on the already difficult humanitarian situation in West Africa and the Sahel. Unfortunately, for many ordinary people, the dry statistical data that is comprehensible to specialists familiar with the region does not convey the tragic scale of the realities in the region. It will take a long time and redoubled international assistance efforts to overcome the negative trends. We note the response of the Lake Chad Basin Commission and its work in forming a joint multinational rapid-reaction force together with Benin.

We welcome the establishment by the countries of the Group of Five for the Sahel of a counter-terrorist force, endorsed by the Security Council in resolution 2359 (2017), and we urge that it be deployed on the ground as soon as possible. We emphasize that efforts to improve security and stability should be carried out as part of a comprehensive approach, combining military counter-terrorism measures with efforts to strengthen State institutions, promote systemic economic and social development, spread a culture of respect for human rights and the rule of law and provide jobs for young people.

We greatly appreciate the steps that have been taken by the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel and the specialized United Nations agencies to provide various types of assistance to countries in this part of Africa. It is important to ensure that, as before, these efforts are coordinated with regional associations such as the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the Mano River Union, the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the Group of Five for the Sahel and others. We also think it important to ensure that we improve the effectiveness of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel, whose potential has not yet been fully realized, and that the United Nations agencies in West Africa and the Sahara-Sahel region take that factor into consideration in coordinating their aid efforts with the Governments of the region.

In that regard, the views of the countries for which the Strategy was developed should be a priority. Above all, we should ensure that external assistance does not take the form of solutions imposed on African Governments by outsiders. We support the principled position that outside meddling is unacceptable. We all remember that the roots of the precipitous degradation of the situation in the region go back to 2011, when outside interference resulted in an operation aimed at regime change in Libya.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers.

I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.8003

Security Council

Seventy-second year

Provisional

8003rd meeting
Friday, 14 July 2017, 4.45 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Liu Jieyi	(China)
Members:	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Mr. Llorentty Solíz
	Egypt	Mr. Moustafa
	Ethiopia	Mr. Woldegerima
	France	Mr. Melki
	Italy	Mr. Biagini
	Japan	Mr. Bessho
	Kazakhstan	Mr. Umarov
	Russian Federation	Mr. Volgarev
	Senegal	Mr. Ciss
	Sweden	Mr. Skoog
	Ukraine	Mr. Vitrenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Hickey
	United States of America	Ms. Sison
	Uruguay	Mr. Bermúdez

Agenda

The situation concerning Iraq

Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 2299 (2016) (S/2017/592)

Fifteenth report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 2107 (2013) (S/2017/596)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

17-21441 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 4.45 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation concerning Iraq

Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 2299 (2016) (S/2017/592)

Fifteenth report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 2107 (2013) (S/2017/596)

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2017/593, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by the United States of America.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2017/592, which contains the report of the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 2299 (2016), as well as to document S/2017/596, which contains the fifteenth report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 2107 (2013).

The Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): The draft resolution received 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2367 (2017).

I shall now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements following the voting.

Ms. Sison (United States of America): The adoption of resolution 2367 (2017) comes at a milestone in Iraq's fight against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). As Member States, we join the Iraqi people in celebrating the liberation of Mosul earlier this week. The Iraqi security forces have dealt ISIL a devastating loss, and the United States and the coalition will support Iraq as that momentum continues through the liberation of the remaining Iraqi territory still under ISIL control.

Over the course of negotiations, Council members recognized that the need for reconciliation, at both the national and the local levels, would grow more acute as the ultimate defeat of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Sham drew nearer. The United States salutes the role of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) in engaging the Government of Iraq, the Kurdistan Regional Government and other stakeholders on national reconciliation. We would also urge UNAMI to invigorate its ongoing efforts, in coordination with Iraqi authorities, to increase transparency in the protection of Iraq's most vulnerable groups, such as internally displaced persons in transit, and encourage Iraq to hold accountable those who committed atrocities against such groups.

I would like to highlight an important addition to this year's mandate, that is, the first-ever external review of a special political mission's staffing and resources, whereby the Secretariat will engage a third-party consultancy to identify efficiencies and delineate responsibilities between UNAMI and the United Nations country team. While this is a new tool for the Security Council, that unbiased third-party review should set a gold standard for improving efficiency and accountability in the field, and will enable UNAMI to more effectively deliver on its mandate.

The United States is proud to join the rest of the Council in supporting UNAMI's work towards durable and sustainable peace for Iraq. We thank all of our counterparts on the Council for their productive engagement, discourse and consensus on this Mission.

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.8004

Security Council

Seventy-second year

Provisional

8004th meeting
Monday, 17 July 2017, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Liu Jieyi	(China)
Members:	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Mr. Inchauste Jordán
	Egypt	Mr. Moustafa
	Ethiopia	Ms. Guadey
	France	Mr. Melki
	Italy	Mr. Cardi
	Japan	Mr. Kawamura
	Kazakhstan	Mr. Umarov
	Russian Federation	Mr. Safronkov
	Senegal	Mr. Seck
	Sweden	Mr. Skoog
	Ukraine	Mr. Kyslytsa
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Hickey
	United States of America	Ms. Sison
	Uruguay	Mr. Bermúdez

Agenda

The situation concerning Iraq

Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 2299 (2016) (S/2017/592)

Fifteenth report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 2107 (2013) (S/2017/596)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council. Corrections* should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

17-21595 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation concerning Iraq

Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 2299 (2016) (S/2017/592)

Fifteenth report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 2107 (2013) (S/2017/596)

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Iraq to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Ján Kubiš, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2017/592, which contains the report of the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 2299 (2016), and document S/2017/596, which contains the fifteenth report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 2107 (2013).

I now give the floor to Mr. Kubiš.

Mr. Kubiš: On 10 July, Prime Minister Al-Abadi announced the liberation of Mosul, attributing that victory to the Iraqi security forces' planning and execution as the only fighting force present on the ground. Praising the Iraqi security forces, including the popular mobilization forces, as well as the Peshmerga and tribal and local volunteers, he also thanked all the countries that supported Iraq in the war on terrorism.

Our prayers and thoughts go to all those killed and wounded, military and civilians both, and to their loved ones. It is critical that the families of the martyrs and wounded receive the necessary support.

Per Prime Minister Al-Abadi's directives, the liberation operation was marked by an exceptional effort on the part of the liberation forces and their international partners to save and protect the civilian population. By adopting a humanitarian concept of operations, they reduced civilian losses and suffering. They also showed a readiness to hold themselves and others accountable for any violations.

In stark contrast, Da'esh terrorists have shown absolute disregard for human lives and civilization. They booby-trapped and destroyed houses and infrastructure as well as religious and cultural monuments, including the iconic monument of Islamic civilization, the Great Al-Nuri mosque and its Al-Hadba minaret. They deliberately targeted civilians, indiscriminately shelling them in the liberated areas, using them as human shields, locking them in their homes and using rooftop snipers to kill people — women, children and men — attempting to flee to safety. They butchered them by using suicide bombers, who included females and brainwashed children, including in camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs).

The fighting in Mosul has also claimed the lives of numerous local and international journalists. Their sacrifices have not been in vain; free and impartial media are essential to safeguard the public interest and to ensure the necessary degree of transparency and accountability. Here I wish also to acknowledge the access that the Iraqi authorities, including those of the Kurdistan region, provided for both national and international media during the Mosul campaign.

The historic liberation of Mosul should not overshadow the fact that the road ahead is extremely challenging. Reclaiming the remaining territories still under Da'esh control in other parts of Ninawa and Anbar governorates; in Hawijah, Kirkuk governorate; and in pockets in other governorates will not be easy. Moreover, Da'esh supporters continue their vicious terrorist activities against civilians in Iraq and beyond.

Hand in hand with liberation comes demining, stabilization and reconstruction so as to enable the return of IDPs as well as the elimination of Da'esh cells, criminal gangs and militias operating outside of the control of the Government. The enforcement of law and order, the rule of law, justice and accountability, as well as reforms, good governance and development, including in the southern provinces, is also crucial. To turn the gains of the military victory into stability, security, justice and development, the Government will have to do everything possible to give the people back their lives in security and dignity. To achieve that, Iraq will continue to need substantial regional and

international support. Victory cannot be achieved by just supporting the military campaign.

It is encouraging that the recent regional tour of Prime Minister Al Abadi in June to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Kuwait confirmed the willingness of those countries to continue and enhance their support. I pay tribute to all Iraq's partners, including those from the international anti-Da'esh coalition, and urge them to continue to stand with Iraq and its people and to continue providing support.

Da'esh's ultimate defeat can be secured only through inclusive solutions and by addressing the grievances, needs and aspirations of the Iraqi people. A national settlement and societal reconciliation are indispensable parts of a broader comprehensive effort towards achieving long-term unity, stability and prosperity.

I applaud the guidance of the Marja'iya religious authorities who, in their victory sermons, stressed that Iraqis need to learn from what happened in the years before Da'esh and remedy the long-standing problems. Furthermore, they stated that using violence, oppression and sectarianism as a means to an end only causes destruction and leaves the country vulnerable to interference by regional and international actors, where there is no winner and Iraq is first among the losers; that all those in positions of power and Government have to work according to a principle that sees all citizens as equal in their rights and duties regardless of religion, sect, ethnicity or nationality. Were that approach implemented strictly, it would restore the people's trust in the Government and its institutions. The Marja'iya's statements also mentioned the need to combat financial and administrative corruption, and sect- and party-linked quotas, and to ensure standards of competence and professionalism in the appointment of Government officials.

The United Nations is committed to further facilitating processes of national settlement and grassroots societal reconciliation, in full coordination with the Government of Iraq and in cooperation with all Iraqi stakeholders, including women and youth, to address the concerns of all components, communities, groups and citizens in a manner that is just and fair.

At a meeting, on 7 June, of political parties in the Kurdistan region of Iraq, chaired by President Barzani, a decision was made to hold a referendum on 25 September with the question: "Do you want the Kurdistan region and the Kurdistani disputed areas outside the administration of the Kurdistan region to become an independent state?" On 11 July, President Barzani reiterated, during his address to the European Parliament in Brussels, the determination to hold the referendum as planned, while maintaining that no country had clearly opposed it.

Such an important issue ought not to be pursued without a common understanding between the federal Government and the Kurdistan Regional Government. In line with the recommendations of Secretary-General Guterres, I urge both parties to enter into negotiations without further delay, in the spirit of genuine partnership and based on the Constitution, to urgently find common ground and a road map to address this and other critical topics, notably the implementation of article 140 of the Constitution, on disputed territories, including the status of Kirkuk, budgetary issues, oil and revenue sharing, and other areas and principles that determine the relations between the federal Government and the Kurdistan Regional Government. The absence of meaningful political dialogue and negotiations could turn a conflict of interests into a different kind of conflict.

Complex electoral processes loom in Iraq, including in the Kurdistan region of Iraq, this and next year. On 21 June, the Independent High Electoral Commission informed that it will not be able to conduct the governorate council elections as scheduled on 16 September. It is of primary importance that all the necessary measures be taken to ensure, first, that the Council of Representatives elections be held at the latest in May 2018, as required by the Constitution, and, secondly, that the governorate council elections be rescheduled.

The cumulative number of people displaced since military operations began in October is now nearing 1 million individuals, although the rate at which people are fleeing the fighting has slowed in recent weeks.

Under the United Nations Development Programme Funding Facility for Immediate Stabilization, by July 2017 more than 1,050 projects were under way or had been completed in 23 liberated towns and districts in Anbar, Ninewa, Salah al-Din, Diyala and Kirkuk governorates. Now that Mosul has been fully liberated, the scope of projects there will increase exponentially.

Of particular concern is the rising popular sentiment in favour of collective punishment of families

perceived to be associated with Da'esh. Countrywide, Iraqis perceived to have links with Da'esh are being increasingly subjected to evictions, the confiscation of homes, and other retribution and revenge measures. The United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) has recommended that the Prime Minister take urgent steps, within his prerogative, to maintain the rule of law and order and halt evictions and vindictive acts.

UNAMI has prioritized accountability to provide justice to individuals affected by human rights violations and abuses committed in the ongoing armed conflict. Given the large scale of serious crimes, UNAMI is pursuing a strategy at the national level with a view to allowing domestic courts to have jurisdiction over international crimes. That would also complement international initiatives to gather evidence on the most serious crimes committed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant.

As the fight to eliminate Da'esh from Iraq comes to a close, the United Nations is repositioning its responses to sexual violence with a focus on supporting survivors of sexual violence in reintegrating back into their communities. I welcome the renewed commitment of the Government of Iraq to ensuring the implementation of the joint communiqué and the national action plan.

The United Nations, at the highest levels, has engaged with senior Iraqi officials on the establishment of the Interministerial Committee on Grave Child Rights Violations. The Committee is expected to provide a forum to coordinate a response by the Iraqi authorities with regard to issues pertaining to children in armed conflict, including occasional reports of recruitment and the use of children by pro-Government forces. Furthermore, we urge the Government of Iraq to ensure that children arrested by security forces, including for terrorism-related charges, are transferred to juvenile institutions.

The Mission continues to work with the federal Government and the Kurdistan Regional Government towards the implementation of the Iraqi national action plan on resolution 1325 (2000) where funding limitations have impeded its implementation. I call on international partners to pledge support in particular to specialized programmes for women and female-headed households.

The issue of missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and missing Kuwaiti property was one of the key topics of the visit of Prime Minister Al-Abadi to Kuwait on 21 June. In a meeting with the Amir of the State of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the parties discussed means to settle all outstanding issues related to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

On 22 and 24 May, Iraq, for the first time in 14 years, successfully hosted in Baghdad the ninety-ninth session of the Technical Subcommittee of the tripartite mechanism, and the forty-fourth session of the Tripartite Commission. I echo the statement (SC/12870) issued by the Security Council, on 14 June, calling on Iraq and Kuwait to continue their cooperation through the tripartite mechanism and to depend on steadfast commitment, action and the adoption of new and innovative ways to push this file forward.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Mr. Kubiš for his briefing.

I shall now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements.

Mr. Bermúdez (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ján Kubiš for his informative and comprehensive briefing and thank him and his entire time for their ongoing work in the context of such a difficult field of operations such as Iraq.

Uruguay recognizes the arduous work of the Special Representative and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) carry out in close collaboration with the Government of Iraq, which has enabled them to tackle the various emergencies the country faces. The Security Council's trust in that process was manifest on Friday when we unanimously adopted resolution 2367 (2017) — extending the UNAMI mandate for another year, until July 2018.

After nine months of tough combat and many Council meetings, we are finally hearing the news of the liberation of Mosul, after having been under the control of the terrorist group Da'esh for three years. Uruguay congratulates the Iraqi Government for its courage and the great efforts deployed in that campaign, as well as for this important achievement, which is not only a victory for the people and the Government of that country, but also a great step forward in the fight against international terrorism.

My country trusts that this important milestone against Da'esh, which must be safeguarded without letting our guard down, can serve as a decisive step in the permanent defeat of that group — which has committed countless abominations and has brutalized

the people under its control since it emerged in 2014. It is worth noting that the Iraqi and the Syrian peoples have suffered unimaginable atrocities, including war crimes, crimes against humanity and even possible genocide, perpetrated against religious minorities — most notably, but probably not exclusively against the Yazidi people, who were subjected to a brutal extermination campaign.

As the entire Council expressed in the press statement of 13 July (SC/12911), it is now time to convey our condolences over the hundreds of thousands of Iraqis, Syrians and other nationalities that have been the victims of the crimes of Da'esh — which must not, under any circumstance, remain unpunished. We must also note that Da'esh did not arise out of a vacuum, but was rather a product of a series of unfortunate events, the first of which was the 2003 invasion of Iraq, which lacked both multilateral legitimacy and the backing of the Council. That, in turn, as we are all aware, led to many years of sectarian civil war that ravaged the country. Moreover, the situation was exacerbated by the ideological, financial, military and troop support that some countries — both from the region and outside of it — provided to Da'esh. The spirit of fighting terrorism and the solidarity with the Iraqi people must be a top priority at this stage. Let us learn from errors of the past so that we do not repeat them.

The liberation of Mosul has now generated two enormous tasks that the Government of Iraq, with the support of the United Nations, must address in the near future — the gradual rebuilding of the city and the return of hundreds of thousands of displaced persons, many of whom will find that their homes have been destroyed and that basic services must be restored. Last Thursday, we bore witness on television to a little girl, Hanan, in a totally barren paediatric hospital in Mosul, who died from entirely treatable renal failure. We encourage the Iraqi Government to prioritize the protection of civilians, just as we have on other occasions in previous months during its offensive in Mosul, so that they can help the millions of people beset by war and terrorism. Moreover, the United Nations should support the Iraqi Government's reform campaign to attain long-term political solutions that will help fight extremism and ensure the country's stability so as to prevent the recurrence of a phenomenon like Da'esh.

Political leaders must overcome their historic divisions and distrust with a view to achieving a broad national reconciliation agreement that can turn the page on so many years of suffering of the Iraqi people due to sectarian and religious divisions. We reiterate that the war against the scourge of terrorism must be waged within the framework of international humanitarian law and human rights and coordinated at the United Nations in order to prevent atrocities similar to those committed by those groups.

We are gratified that the renewed UNAMI mandate calls for the empowerment of women for the immediate future of the country. In that regard, we call on the Iraqi Government to promote and defend the rights of women and girls, and to promote gender equality, bolster women's political engagement and address the urgent problem of the use of sexual violence in conflict as a war tactic and terrorist act.

As of today, Iraq faces a new and transcendent chapter in its history. Victory against Da'esh will be insufficient if the Iraqi authorities do not make progress in the fight against corruption, the political involvement of civil society and the enjoyment of rights for all Iraqi citizens. It will be up to the authorities, with the support of UNAMI and the Council, to consolidate the agreed reforms so as to bring about a more modern, inclusive and peaceful Iraq.

Mr. Kyslytsa (Ukraine): Before going into the subject matter of today's discussion, I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues around this table that today, 17 July, the world commemorates World Day for International Justice. Also, it was three years ago today that the world learned of the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH-17. Today our thoughts and prayers are with the families and loved ones of every victim of that tragedy. We also appreciate the attention the Secretary-General gave to the matter in his statement today on this sad anniversary. To ensure justice for its victims and accountability for its perpetrators, important steps have been taken recently. On 5 July, the President of the Security Council and the Secretary-General were informed, through document S/2017/580, about the joint decision of the joint investigation team countries that the prosecution and trial of those responsible for this atrocious crime would take place in the Netherlands. On 7 July, Ukraine and the Netherlands signed a bilateral treaty on international legal cooperation in relation to the downing of Flight MH-17. In that regard, we urge all States to take steps to ensure full compliance with Council resolution 2166 (2014), which demands that all States cooperate fully with efforts to establish accountability.

Turning to the subject under consideration today, we note with great satisfaction that a significant milestone was reached in stabilizing Iraq with the recent liberation of Mosul. It is a welcome and much-anticipated development that the Government of Iraq, together with the coalition forces, succeeded in its military operation. We hope that this victory over the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) will accelerate its final elimination from the region.

However, those gains have come at a very high price, since the operation has had severe effects on civilians in the area. The humanitarian situation in the liberated city remains dire, since much of Mosul lies in ruins and a considerable number of people are still trapped in the old city. Beyond that, in the city's general vicinity, there is another serious challenge represented by the 700,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) who want to return to their homes but who in some cases have nothing left to return to. In that regard, we encourage the Government of Iraq to work with its partners on post-liberation initiatives aimed at rebuilding vital infrastructure, ensuring respect for human rights and international humanitarian law, focusing on national reconciliation and facilitating IDPs' safe and voluntary return to their homes. We realize the extent of the difficulties associated with such a momentous task and hope that the Iraqi Government will receive the assistance and support it so badly needs in mobilizing the resources it requires to address those challenges.

Ukraine is encouraged by the commitment of Iraqi stakeholders, who have been working tirelessly on a national reconciliation process aimed at uniting the people of Iraq, regardless of their ethnicity or religion. Only an inclusive national reconciliation effort can heal the wounds that the country has sustained and help to achieve a lasting national settlement. In addition, proper attention must be given to the issue of accountability for all those who committed crimes against the civilian population during the conflict. There can be no place for victor's justice, which would undermine the national reconciliation process. We also emphasize how important it is for the Government of Iraq, with the support of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq and its international partners, to conduct comprehensive security-sector reform, with the goal of establishing trained, professional defence and security forces committed to carrying out their duties on a basis of human rights and humanitarian principles. That aspect is critical, since it will help to prevent sectarian violence in the area and avoid any repetition of the events that occurred in Ramadi and Fallujah after they were liberated.

Lastly, I would like to say that I believe that in the near future the Government of Iraq will announce ISIL's final defeat on Iraqi soil in this Chamber, something that we will all gladly welcome.

Mr. Inchauste Jordán (Plurinational State of Bolivia) (*spoke in Spanish*): We would like to thank Mr. Ján Kubiš, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), for his briefing, and to assure him of our full support to him in implementing the tasks with which he is entrusted. We are also grateful for the key role played by UNAMI in fulfilling its mandate, which we just renewed through the unanimous adoption on 14 July of resolution 2367 (2017). We urge it to continue its work in coordinating and encouraging dialogue with the goal of strengthening the process of peace and reconciliation in Iraq.

We welcomed the Iraqi Government's announcement on 10 July confirming the liberation of the city of Mosul from Da'esh control. We recognize the profound courage, sacrifice and determination that the security forces and the people of Iraq in general have continued to show in their fight to eliminate that terrorist group's presence in their country once and for all. We also acknowledge the interim precautionary and protective measures that the Iraqi security forces have taken in their campaign against Da'esh in order to prioritize the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure. We would like to emphasize that as long as this terrorist group is still being expelled from the territory of Iraq and people are being liberated from its control, it is vital to ensure that there is full and unrestricted humanitarian access to United Nations aid and that the human rights of those caught up in the conflict steps are respected and upheld.

According to the reports issued on 4 July by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, to date, since the start of anti-terrorist operations in Mosul in October 2016, more than 900,000 internally displaced persons have been registered as coming from that city alone, 709,000 of whom are still unable to return home, in addition to the more than 3.4 million people who have been displaced internally since the conflict began. Furthermore, according to the Secretary-General's report (S/2017/592), 445,000 civilians have died just in

the period from May to June of this year, bringing the total number of deaths resulting from the conflict to some 82,000.

We are also concerned about the information in the report about serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law by Da'esh such as mass burials of civilians, abductions and the sexual enslavement of thousands of women. It has used improvised explosive devices and carried out suicide attacks in squares, markets and other very crowded areas, as well as using innocent civilians as human shields. In that regard, we firmly condemn all acts of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of where, when or by whom they are committed. We particularly condemn terrorist acts that make cowardly use of civilians, especially women and children, as human shields.

We reaffirm the importance of ensuring that we combat such practices by all possible means at our disposal, within the framework of the Charter of the United Nations and our obligations under international law, and that those responsible for such acts are investigated, prosecuted and punished. With regard to explosive devices, we believe that while the area is still being liberated from Da'esh's control, we should focus on demining activities and on clearing all explosive remnants of war in order to ensure that the huge number of displaced persons can be returned home safely.

The Plurinational State of Bolivia would also like to pay tribute to the determination and effort of the Iraqi people to reach a political solution that will help to begin peacebuilding and to involve the Iraqi people in establishing their country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. In that regard, we hope that the electoral schedule and the legal mechanisms needed to ensure that it is met can be agreed on with the consensus of all the political parties and stakeholders involved to the benefit of the population as a whole.

We also appreciate the efforts of the Iraqi Government to identify missing Kuwaiti citizens and property and to return property taken during the conflict. We take note of the Iraqi Government's positive actions in that regard, such as the public call broadcast on mass media on 15 May inviting all those with information on missing Kuwaitis to come forward, and the explorations done in the potential burial locations of Khamisiyah and Samawah. We hope they will produce positive results. Lastly, we encourage all stakeholders to continue working to achieve concrete results through the reconciliation efforts that are so fundamental to the process of stabilizing relations between Iraq and Kuwait and which the Council discussed in its press release of 14 July.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of Iraq.

Mr. Marzooq (Iraq): (*spoke in Arabic*): I would first like to congratulate the People's Republic of China on its assumption of the presidency of the Council for this month. We would like to thank you, Mr. President, for your organization of the Council's work, and to express our gratitude to Bolivia for its leadership of the Council last month. I would also like to welcome the briefing by Mr. Ján Kubiš, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), and to thank him and his team for their efforts in both Baghdad and New York.

On 10 July, from the heart of Mosul, the second-largest city in Iraq, Prime Minister Haider Al Abadi announced that Iraq's heroic armed forces had achieved a historic victory, ending the situation of illusion and extremism in the city. With enormous sacrifices, our brave forces have regained the city of Mosul and the Al-Hadba minaret, which the Takfiri terrorists demolished at the approach of the Iraqi forces. Today, I can only congratulate our armed forces and our brave people who have made sacrifices. I also congratulate all honourable citizens of the civilized world, who have supported Iraq, and its forces, in its fight against the terrorist gangs of Da'esh.

Iraq appreciates the role played by the international coalition, which offered aerial support and cooperated with the Iraqi air forces, in the battle to liberate Mosul. I should also like to thank and express gratitude to the States of the international coalition, as well as all other nations that have supported the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq, offered assistance in the areas of military logistics and advice, and humanitarian assistance in order to gain victory against the terrorist gangs of Da'esh.

The Iraqi Government gave priority to the liberation of people before land, and thus to the safety and protection of civilians. The Council is also aware of the role of the supreme religious authority in Iraq, which produced a legal opinion, a fatwa, calling for jihad against Da'esh and giving great momentum to

the fight against the gangs of Da'esh and the fight to preserve the territory of Iraq.

Official entities in the liberated areas of Iraq are working to return life to a state of normalcy and to begin offering services, thus paving the way for displaced persons, of whom there are approximately three million, to return and resume their normal life. Iraq is therefore in dire need of the support of the international community to face the challenges imposed by this post-Da'esh phase in Iraq, achieve stability, rebuild destroyed infrastructure, and remove the mines and the ordinances planted by the terrorist gangs of Da'esh in the cities over which we have regained control. That is based on a comprehensive plan for reconstruction and domestic governance, which requires financial as well as technical support, and consultation with our international partners.

Iraq would also like to salute the humanitarian efforts of our sister nation Kuwait, particularly its relief initiative aimed at alleviating the suffering of displaced Iraqis. We also highly appreciate the efforts of friendly nations, of the European Union, and of the States members of the international coalition for the support and humanitarian assistance they have provided and for their readiness to support Iraq in achieving stability and reconstruction.

I would like to reiterate the critical and vital role that UNAMI can perform under its mandate, and the role of the United Nations country team in addressing humanitarian, social and economic challenges, as well as those in the fields of health and construction, assisting in the return of security, stability and essential services, allowing displaced persons to return to their homes, providing them with job opportunities, and allowing them to participate in the reconstruction of what the extremists have destroyed.

Iraq is a unified and independent federal State that enjoys complete sovereignty, based on a democratic federal Constitution that was adopted by all sectors of Iraqi society in 2005 through a popular, democratic and transparent referendum. It is based on full respect for and equality of rights and duties among all components of Iraqi society and affirms the values of civic engagement, political participation and effective political representation for all. The constitutional and legal rights of all are guaranteed, in particular with regard to the areas of politics, economics, society, culture and language. Few diverse nations can make the same claim.

Iraq affirms once again the importance of implementing the provisions of resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2199 (2015) and 2253 (2015). To strengthen the rule of law and to prevent terrorists in Iraq from enjoying impunity, Iraq is currently considering the various alternatives in the global campaign to bring justice to Da'esh. Included is a draft resolution that we are considering with our partners regarding the collection of evidence pertaining to crimes committed by the Da'esh gangs in Iraq. We are also undertaking efforts to strengthen our sovereignty, to preserve the jurisdiction of our legal system and also to build capacities in that regard.

We once again reiterate that Council members must demand that Turkey withdraw its forces from Iraqi territory and that it respect the principle of good neighbourliness with Iraq in order to preserve and maintain international and regional peace and security.

The Iraqi Government is continuously working to strengthen its relations with Arab and neighbouring countries, in particular Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Jordan, Turkey and Iran, in addition to continued relations with the Syrian Government.

To strengthen our brotherly relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Iraqi Cabinet has established an Iraqi-Saudi coordination council. The two countries have agreed to elevate bilateral relations to the required strategic level; to open new horizons of cooperation in various areas, including the political field, security, economics, development, trade, investment, tourism and culture; to invigorate the partnership between the private sector in both countries, in addition to combating terrorism and extremism in their various forms, eliminating the strongholds of terrorism, drying up its sources and eliminating its financing, while respecting the various relevant conventions.

To strengthen reconciliation, we are now hosting preparation meetings for the Mecca conference. Iraq remains committed legally and morally to locating the Kuwaiti missing persons, as well as the Kuwaiti archives and relevant documents. Iraqi ministries continue to work hard to document and scrutinize the information from witnesses, and continue to carry out field visits and excavations in different locations in order to find the remains of missing persons and Kuwaiti prisoners of war.

I should like to welcome the Council's response to the Iraqi Government's request to extend the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq for one year based on resolution 1770 (2007), in letter and in spirit.

In conclusion, we express once again our gratitude for the work and efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Ján Kubiš, and his team in providing advice to the Iraqi Government in connection with its various activities, with a view to preserving the unity of Iraq, its territorial integrity and its stability in order that it may be free of terrorism. May Iraq live in safety, unity, strength, prosperity and stability in its democratic political system, and glory be to the martyrs who gave their lives to combat terrorism on behalf of all of humankind.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.50 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.8005

Security Council

Seventy-second year

Provisional

8005th meeting
Tuesday, 18 July 2017, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Liu Jieyi	(China)
Members:	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Mr. Fernández Revollo
	Egypt	Mr. Moustafa
	Ethiopia	Mr. Alemu
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Italy	Mr. Biagini
	Japan	Mr. Kawamura
	Kazakhstan	Mr. Umarov
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Senegal	Mr. Seck
	Sweden	Mr. Vaverka
	Ukraine	Mr. Yelchenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Hickey
	United States of America	Ms. Sison
	Uruguay	Mr. Rosselli

Agenda

The situation concerning Haiti

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (S/2017/604)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation concerning Haiti

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (S/2017/604)

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Haiti, Mexico and Peru to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Ms. Sandra Honoré Braithwaite, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Guillaume Dabouis, Head of the Political Section of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2017/604, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti.

I now give the floor to Ms. Honoré Braithwaite.

Ms. Honoré Braithwaite: I would like to express my gratitude to the People's Republic of China for convening today's meeting on Haiti in its capacity as President of the Security Council.

(*spoke in French*)

I take this opportunity to welcome the presence of the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Haiti.

(*spoke in Spanish*)

I would also like in particular to thank all of those countries that contribute troops and police personnel to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), as well as all the Member States that work in partnership with Haiti in the process of consolidating stability in Haiti.

(*spoke in English*)

A little less than three months before the closure of MINUSTAH and the transition to a smaller peacekeeping mission — the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) — Haiti remains on the path towards stabilization and democratic consolidation.

As I highlighted during my previous briefing (see S/PV.7920), the near-completion of the electoral cycle earlier this year has opened up political space for the new Government to start addressing the many challenges facing the country, using this unique opportunity to tackle the root causes of instability, poverty, exclusion and impunity. Since then, initial steps aimed at overcoming longstanding problems in the areas of governance, the rule of law and socioeconomic development have been taken.

The Administration, under President Jovenel Moïse and Prime Minister Jack Guy Lafontant, has reiterated the President's campaign promise to transform and modernize the State to better meet the needs of the people and fulfil their rights and to embark on an institutional reform process involving all sectors of society. To that end, a Government programme was adopted that is built around priorities in security, justice, energy, education, health, agriculture and decentralization, with an emphasis on accountability and transparency as well as the fight against corruption, a condition sine qua non for the restoration of trust between the citizens and the State as well as for economic growth and human development.

While these commitments have yet to be further nurtured by concrete measures, the executive has launched its flagship development programme, the "Caravane du changement" initiative, in five of Haiti's 10 departments, so as to enhance the State's service delivery and improve the living conditions of the population, primarily in rural areas. The programme is considered to be the backbone of the Government's economic growth and development strategy and is centred on the revitalization of agricultural production and investment in public infrastructure, with a view to increasing market access and improving basic social services.

In this post-electoral climate, with political polarization significantly reduced and in the context

of an improved relationship between the executive and the legislature, a joint legislative agenda was adopted, for the first time in 10 years. This has set the stage for strengthened collaboration between these two branches of power, which is necessary for the implementation of the ambitious reform agenda. Furthermore, the Government has started to take difficult decisions and reduced the State subsidy on petroleum and gasoline, aiming at decreasing fiscal pressure and opening the space for other public investments, while Parliament has commenced the review of key legislation to improve the investment climate, reinforce governance structures and restore State institutions.

Looking ahead, for the country to make full use of the window of opportunity that emerged following the electoral process, additional measures will be needed to consolidate the security and stabilization gains of the past few years, create greater social and political cohesion and truly reinforce State institutions so that they can meet the needs of the Haitian people.

In this respect, I am encouraged by President Moïse's campaign pledge to launch a broad-based national dialogue with the objective of forging a common vision for progress and to articulate an institutional reform agenda with priorities that address the most pressing socioeconomic and political challenges. Such a dialogue process would require comprehensive action by all actors, including State institutions, political parties, the private sector and civil society, to establish a forward-looking agenda able to deliver tangible results. I am also encouraged by the calls from a broad cross-section of Haitian society for reforms to simplify the electoral cycle, establish a permanent electoral council and strengthen legal oversight bodies, among other things, with a view to stabilizing the country's democratic institutions and reforming its governance.

With regard to institutional strengthening and reforms, I wish to reiterate my call on all actors, executive and legislature, to move swiftly to fully restore the judiciary and bolster its independence through the filling of key positions, as a first step, without further delay. It is troubling that the third branch of power has still not been brought to full functioning. Key positions in the Office of the Ombudsperson and the constitutional council have also to be filled as a matter of priority in order to foster the rule of law and the enjoyment of human rights. The absence of tangible progress in the field of the rule of law has negative impacts on people's lives and their human rights, on the investment climate and on economic growth. It is in this context that I repeat my plea for resolute action to finally modernize the penal system through the adoption of the criminal code and the criminal procedure code, both now before Parliament.

Without a properly functioning justice system, the Haitian National Police (HNP) cannot effectively deliver security for all Haitian citizens, and domestic and international investments in the national police force will not develop to their full potential.

As the national police grows in strength and performance, all efforts must aim to create the necessary framework for the effective delivery of justice and the rule of law. This includes the State's responsibility to guarantee and preserve the apolitical and independent character of both the judiciary and the national police. It also includes the need for continued prioritization by the Government of institutional development and the professionalization of the national police. The provision of adequate financial resources for the police and for the prisons administration for the implementation of the 2017-2021 HNP strategic development plan will serve as one indicator of the Government's commitment to achieving this goal, amid its determination to reconstitute a national defence force.

While the security situation remains relatively stable, including in the areas from which MINUSTAH has withdrawn its troops during the last three months, the resolute implementation of the reforms and plans for inclusive dialogue is all the more important so as to sustainably consolidate the gains registered thus far and pave the way for the transition from MINUSTAH to MINUJUSTH.

Ultimately, Haiti's security, political, social and development agenda can be shaped only by the national authorities and the Haitian people themselves, and the responsibility for the further consolidation of the stabilization gains rests with the Haitian people. Much-needed donor support can assist and complement Haitian-led efforts where needed and desired. In this context, I commend the Government of Haiti for the leadership demonstrated to set the development agenda and reinvigorate the aid-coordination architecture. This continuous leadership will be indispensable to translate the Government's vision into action and to align donor support behind clearly articulated strategies and deliverables.

With this in mind, MINUSTAH's drawdown and transition process have been designed, in close coordination with the national authorities, to ensure a progressive and orderly transfer of security and civilian tasks to the State institutions. As MINUSTAH transitions to MINUJUSTH with its specific focus on the rule of law, police development and human rights, a joint United Nations country team-MINUSTAH transition plan has been brought to near-completion. The plan has identified residual stabilization needs and priority areas for the continued engagement of MINUJUSTH, the United Nations country team and the donor community, as peacekeeping in Haiti disengages from certain areas, including decentralization, border management, juvenile justice and certain specialized policing areas.

As MINUSTAH continues the implementation of its integrated drawdown plan until the Mission's closure, on 15 October, and ensures an orderly transition of core mandates to MINUJUSTH, the partnership of the international community with Haiti as well as continued and coordinated support for Haiti's reform agenda will be critical.

I therefore thank all of Haiti's international partners and friends for remaining steadfast in their financial and political support to Haiti and for the their belief in the country's ability to lay foundations for lasting change, sustainable development and stability that benefits all segments of the society. It is in that spirit that I call on Haiti's partners to continue optimizing their support for the Haitian authorities and the Haitian people to fully seize the opportunity that they themselves have created.

Lastly, I wish to thank all my colleagues in MINUSTAH and the United Nations country team for their dedication and commitment during this demanding period of change for Haiti and the United Nations system in the country.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Ms. Honoré Braithwaite for her briefing.

I shall now give the floor to the members of the Security Council.

Ms. Sison (United States of America): I thank Special Representative Honoré Braithwaite for her briefing, which together with the Secretary-General's report (S/2017/604) clearly outlines that the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) is successfully on the path to closing and that the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) is on track to replace it by 16 October.

I would like to begin by recognizing Special Representative Honoré Braithwaite, as well as the troop- and police-contributing countries, for their support to the United Nations mission over the past 13 years. Thanks to their leadership and the dedication of the men and women serving in MINUSTAH, Haiti has made strides towards democracy and stability.

First, I would like to underscore the importance of a smooth transition between the two missions, MINUSTAH and MINUJUSTH. We are pleased to hear that good progress had already been made. To date, half of the military component and one of the 11 police units have withdrawn from Haiti without incident. In fact, there has been a reported decrease in the levels of criminality and civil protests. We applaud the transfer of tasks from the military to the Haitian National Police in the northern part of the country and in some of the most security-sensitive areas of Port-au-Prince. We also commend the transfer of tasks from MINUSTAH to the host Government and the United Nations country team.

Secondly, I want to emphasize that the work begun by MINUSTAH is not over yet. MINUJUSTH's core mission will include the rule of law and police development, as well as human rights. The entire justice system, including corrections and the judiciary, needs significant reform, and focusing on the rule of law is especially critical at this juncture. As the police and the judiciary go hand in hand, strengthening the capacity of both sectors is necessary to entrench the rule of law in Haiti and to address such urgent challenges as high pre-trial detention rates and prison overcrowding. We also call for increased attention to Haiti's economic situation and challenges related to humanitarian and disaster preparedness, which should be prioritized so that Haiti is prepared for the next crisis.

The United States stands ready to assist however it can. We have been one of Haiti's strongest international partners for more than 30 years. Together with the Government of Haiti and the international community, we continue to support the strengthening of Haiti's overall security, democratic development and economic growth.

Mr. Umarov (Kazakhstan): I thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Honoré Braithwaite for her comprehensive briefing. We warmly

recall our visit to Haiti last month and appreciate her help in facilitating it.

We acknowledge the very timely mission of the Security Council to Haiti, which provided us the unique opportunity to witness first-hand the achievements of the country made thus far despite the serious obstacles that it has faced in terms of political instability and two major national disasters. We were able to demonstrate the unified solidarity and support of the Security Council to the Government and to the resilient people of Haiti to strengthen their country and institutions.

Kazakhstan welcomes the many positive developments in Haiti in recent months, including building institutional and political stability, such as the completion of the first 100 days of the new administration, President Moïse's flagship "Caravane du changement" initiative and the joint legislative agenda comprising 51 draft laws aimed at improving the business climate, reinforcing State functions and ensuring better territorial planning. The adoption of the five-year Haitian National Police (HNP) strategic development plan for the period 2017-2021 is promising and will therefore require adequate financial resources and training support from the international community.

We also acknowledge the observation by the Secretary-General in his latest report (S/2017/604) that the ongoing withdrawal of military and police components of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and the gradual transfer of tasks to the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) have been smooth and without disruption. At the same time, Haiti continues to face enormous difficulties and has yet to overcome numerous and complex challenges with regard to strengthening democracy, political institutions, the rule of law, the protection of human rights, promoting economic and social development and enhancing business investment from outside the country.

We call on the Government of Haiti to make every effort to successfully implement the HNP strategic development plan so as to ensure that adequate security arrangements be put in place, in particular in those geographical and functional areas from which MINUSTAH troops and police have withdrawn.

The issue of cholera in Haiti must remain at the centre of the United Nations focus. We welcome the fact that the intensified cholera response has resulted in a significant decline in suspected cholera cases. In that regard, Kazakhstan joins the Secretary-General's call to the international community and donors for voluntary contributions to the United Nations Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund. That could have a direct and immediate impact on saving lives in Haiti and address the suffering that so many Haitians have endured.

As MINUSTAH withdraws, we acknowledge with gratitude its committed efforts to bringing stability and peace to Haiti since its establishment in 2004. Our task for today is to prepare the ground for MINUJUSTH's mandate to advocate for constitutional, legislative, judiciary and criminal justice reform with a view to promoting human rights and protecting civilians. Haiti will need help in holding its national elections. The significantly reduced civilian staff in the new mission calls for a highly competitive selection of both national and international personnel. At the same time, the United Nations country team with the entire United Nations system and international partners will have to assume greater responsibility for peacebuilding and sustainable development tasks.

Lastly, I would like to reiterate Kazakhstan's firm commitment to supporting Haiti's efforts to peace, progress and prosperity.

Mr. Iliichev (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, Ms. Sandra Honoré Braithwaite, for her presentation of the Secretary-General's report (S/2017/604) and assessment of the situation in the country during the critical period of gradual transition from the current United Nations mission to a justice support mission.

Accordingly, in April we supported the adoption of resolution 2350 (2017), taking into account the important role that the United Nations plays in stabilizing the situation in the country and the need to continue to provide assistance to the Government of Haiti. In their statements, members of the Security Council frequently emphasize the importance of transitional periods and stress that, once that stage has been completed, we can judge the effectiveness of the United Nations system and the Security Council in particular. We therefore have paid particularly close attention to the Secretary-General's report.

We note the positive assessments of the political process in the country, the establishment of a

Government, the completion of the first 100 days of the administration of President Moïse and the gradual progress in improving national criminal legislation, as well as the establishment of the Haitian National Police strategic development plan for the period 2017-2021. We take note of the view that Haiti stands ready to bear responsibility to independently address its challenges.

However, an analysis of the statistics noted in the report during the reporting period in connection with violations and the number of operations conducted by Blue Helmets and Berets indicates the need for a steadfast focus on security issues. The Mission, the Secretariat and the Security Council are faced with the challenge of ensuring that the planned reforms do not generate a security vacuum. Consequently, the gradual drawdown of the military and police contingents and troop levels needs to be done in a very cautious manner. There must be certainty that the Government is in a position to independently and fully guarantee security and tranquillity for the Haitian people.

The second half of the report focuses on the transition from the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) to the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti. Once again, we would like to highlight what we referred to in April when resolution 2350 (2017) was adopted (see S/PV.7924). In recent years, the Security Council has firmly advocated having mission mandates be as comprehensible, explicit and obtainable as possible. That was the premise as we worked on resolution 2350 (2017). Ultimately, the resolution explicitly stipulates that the Council "[r]ecognizes the ownership and primary responsibility of the Government and the people of Haiti". This is also referred to in paragraph 6, which focuses on the mandate of the Mission established. It states that the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti "shall be mandated to assist the Government of Haiti".

In that context, we noted that the wording, which focuses on the work of the future Mission is somewhat vague and it may be interpreted in a way to suggest that the Mission has certain independent functions and priorities that the Government must support. We will closely monitor work along those lines, chiefly with regard to the need to deliver good services and monitor the human rights situation. Those duties must be carried out strictly in line with the mandate handed down by the Security Council.

In conclusion, we reiterate what the Council has stated repeatedly based on experience. The effective support of the United Nations is possible only when there is trust-based cooperation with the host State as it assumes the leadership role.

Mr. Hickey (United Kingdom): I thank Special Representative Honoré Braithwaite for her briefing today. I would like to pay tribute to her and to the important work she has done during her time in Haiti. It is particularly encouraging to hear that the transition from the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) to the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) is on track.

It is important that that continue. A smooth and seamless transition will send a clear signal to the people and Government of Haiti that the United Nations relationship with Haiti has changed but our commitment has not. MINUJUSTH marks a new era in the United Nations support for Haiti. Its three-pronged focus on police, the rule of law and human rights will help Haiti to address its future opportunities and challenges independently for the first time in many decades. The successful delivery of MINUJUSTH's mission will allow it to eventually leave Haiti, having laid the framework for security and stability that Haitians can continue to build on themselves.

I know that there is a lot of work ahead, both for Haiti and the United Nations. I suspect that few of us who recently visited Haiti believe that success is guaranteed. In the weeks following the visit, I have come to believe that three fundamental conditions are required to make MINUJUSTH a success.

The first condition for success requires the new Mission to be equipped with the tools that are fit for purpose and matched to Haiti's needs. For example, to further develop the capacity of Haiti's police, the United Nations Police Commander will need officers with the right technical and language skills to engage meaningfully with their local counterparts. Another example is the United Nations country team. Joint analysis and programming with MINUJUSTH will help ensure that it is better placed to support long-term justice reform in Haiti. As the Secretary-General's most recent report (S/2017/604) rightly points out, all of the United Nations tools will need to be more politically acute if they are to catalyse change. Indeed, United Nations tools only go so far.

The second condition for success is a Government that embraces Haiti's challenges as its own and proactively takes on new responsibilities. The gap left by MINUSTAH is not primarily for its successor Mission to plug, but for Haiti's Government and institutions to fill. That means providing Haiti's police with proper equipment and salaries and not squandering those scarce resources elsewhere. As the Special Representative has outlined, it means investment in a justice system that protects all Haitians with the rule of law, leaving no space for corruption to flourish and impunity to fester. It means making critical appointments to the Supreme Court and taking urgently needed reforms through Parliament. And finally, it means doing much more to tackle the scourge of gender-based violence. All of this requires that the priorities of Haiti's politicians are aligned with those of Haiti's people.

The third condition for success is also about taking responsibility. MINUJUSTH and the whole of the United Nations must continue to win back the trust of Haiti's people. On our trip to Haiti, we heard about two issues that have damaged the United Nations legacy. One relates to cholera — a tragedy for the Haitian people and an obstacle to the United Nations turning its own page in Haiti. I am pleased to hear that infection rates are down. Eradication is within grasp, and like the Ambassador of Kazakhstan, I call on donors to do what they can to make that a reality.

The other tragic issue that has damaged the reputation of United Nations peacekeeping is the shockingly widespread sexual exploitation and abuse carried out by peacekeepers sent by the Council in the past to Haiti. Such crimes have left deep scars across the country. If we are to ask people to trust in peacekeepers and their mission, we cannot allow that to happen again — not in Haiti, not anywhere. We have agreed to a clear framework of action through resolution 2272 (2016). There can be no space for backsliding on those commitments.

In conclusion, the United Kingdom looks forward to a smooth and seamless transition over the next few months. We also hope that those three conditions: a mission equipped with the right tools, a Government ready to lead on Haiti's challenges and a people ready to trust in the United Nations again can accompany the next phase of the United Nations relationship with Haiti.

Mr. Yelchenko (Ukraine): I would like to thank Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), Sandra Honoré Braithwaite, for her briefing on the situation in the country.

Ukraine welcomes the fact that the long period of institutional instability that plagued the electoral process in Haiti appears to be behind us. Despite the significant difficulties, we are pleased that the country has returned to constitutional order, based on the will of voters.

We commend the Haitian authorities on their positive steps to restore democratic institutions and congratulate the Haitian people who, while facing many political, economic and social challenges and natural disasters have managed to bring the country back to order. We underline that the efforts of all political stakeholders should be focused on ensuring stability and security as a crucial element for further democratic consolidation. Broader unity is indispensable to achieve goals such as strengthening national human rights institutions, ensuring respect for human rights, combating criminality, sexual and gender-based violence, putting an end to impunity and providing accountability.

Ukraine commends the important role MINUSTAH has played for the past 13 years in ensuring stability and security during particularly difficult times, such as the most recently held elections or Hurricane Matthew. Its contribution to strengthening the capacity of the Haitian National Police is indispensable.

In April, the Security Council adopted resolution 2350 (2017), extending the mandate of MINUSTAH for a final six months. The resolution also outlined the legal framework for the transition to the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH). We welcome the special attention given in the recent Secretary-General's report (S/2017/604) to the planning for MINUJUSTH, in particular on the issues of the rule of law and human rights.

During its recent visit to Haiti, the Security Council reviewed the implementation of resolution 2350 (2017), focusing on the smooth transition from MINUSTAH to MINUJUSTH. The Council saw that while the security situation in this Caribbean country has improved, it is still fragile. Thus, it is important to ensure a well-prepared continuity of United Nations presence so that the mistakes of the past are not repeated.

We consider continuing work to strengthen the Haitian National Police essential. The recent report of the Secretary-General highlighted the gains made over the years in developing the capacity of the Haitian National Police. At the same time, further consolidation of those achievements is vital.

On the other hand, we would like to underline the necessity of continued efforts of the international community, multilateral agencies, Haiti's regional partners and individual States in supporting the long-term security and development of Haiti. Those actors and the United Nations national and international bodies constitute the basic three pillars supporting the country's stability.

We recognize that considerable national, regional and international efforts have been made in combating cholera. However, Haiti continues to face significant challenges that affect these efforts. In this vein, we welcome the consensus adoption on 13 July of General Assembly resolution 71/161 B, which reaffirmed support for the Organization's new approach to cholera in Haiti, including the establishment of the United Nations Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund, and invited Member States, donors, financial institutions, the private sector and others to extend financial support for the initiative.

Taking this opportunity, we would also like to welcome the appointment of Ms. Josette Sheeran as Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Haiti. We wish her every success in the challenging task of implementing the United Nations new approach to reducing the impact of cholera in Haiti and supporting national efforts to fulfil Haiti's 2030 sustainable growth and implementation plan.

Mr. Rosselli (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the briefing he provided us on the work of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). I also thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of MINUSTAH, Ms. Sandra Honoré Braithwaite, for her briefing and especially for her work and dedication.

Uruguay aligns itself with the statement that will be delivered by the Permanent Representative of Peru on behalf of the Group of friends of Haiti.

In reading this report of the Secretary-General on MINUSTAH (S/2017/604), we find much to be heartened by and other news that continue to cause us concern. We are pleased to learn that Haiti has continued to forge ahead in strengthening its democracy and stability. It is positive that President Jovenel Moïse has put together a road map to guide the Government with a focus on security, justice, energy, education, health and agriculture and containing a strategy for decentralization. We note that the Haitian National Police has continued to boost their ability to provide security and to ensure that the law is upheld throughout the country. Moreover, we were also pleased to learn about the decrease in suspected cases of cholera and related deaths as a result of the efforts carried out by the Government of Haiti and its international partners.

We are nonetheless concerned by the fragile socioeconomic situation of the country and the vulnerability of its people. Mitigating these realities will require the Government's efforts and resources to be concentrated in the areas identified as priorities. According to the report of the Secretary-General, as of 19 May 2.35 million people in Haiti were living in a situation of severe food insecurity and more than 143,000 are suffering from acute malnutrition.

Given such enormous needs, we need to be very clear and sincere in expressing that we are seriously concerned that the Haitian authorities are even thinking about remobilizing the Haitian Armed Forces, which would clearly divert human and financial resources away from the areas that require urgent attention. Priority should be given to all those initiatives that generate direct benefits for the Haitian people and strengthen the State's institutions. The shear cost in terms of investment and operationalization of restoring these Armed Forces in Haiti at a time in which the country has so many pressing needs to deal with must not be overlooked.

We believe that energy and resources must be focused on further strengthening and training the Haitian National Police so that it can fulfil to the letter the task of ensuring national security. To date, national and international efforts have been focused on this and that must continue to be the case if we are to avoid compromising the gains achieved in the area of security over the course of the 13 years of MINUSTAH's presence. It would be regrettable if those achievements were to be undone because of tensions caused by unresolved socioeconomic problems, coupled with other weaknesses in the country's institutions, such as deficiencies in the judicial institutions and the human

rights situation. We endorse the calls made by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, by the Independent Expert of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in Haiti, and by civil society organizations to the Government of Haiti to establish a separate ministry for human rights.

We note that the actions carried out in the context of the withdrawal of MINUSTAH are proceeding smoothly and have not had any visible adverse impact on the general security situation in the country. Uruguay's own troops stood down on 15 April, bringing to a successful end a 13-year phase of support and assistance to Haiti and its people on the ground, which began with the establishment of MINUSTAH in 2004. Today, our objective is to keep our hard-won gains and improve the general situation of the country by seeking out other possible avenues for cooperation.

The adoption of the transition plan between MINUSTAH and the United Nations country team, which identifies priority needs and objectives for Haiti, reflects the planning work carried out in order to ensure the orderly handover from MINUSTAH to the new Mission. As far as plans for the organization and operationalization of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH), the report of Secretary-General provides us with a wealth of information thereon, demonstrating the professionalism of the work the United Nations is carrying out in consultation with the Haitian authorities.

The mandate of the new Mission will entail assisting the Government of Haiti in strengthening the institutions of the rule of law; supporting and strengthening the Haitian National Police; and monitoring, reporting and analysing the human rights situation, thereby addressing the current needs in Haiti. MINUJUSTH will only be successful in its mandate if it enjoys the full support of the Haitian authorities.

Mr. Moustafa (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, allow me to thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ms. Sandra Honoré Braithwaite for her comprehensive briefing. We greatly appreciate her efforts and the relentless work of her team of civilians, military and police to promote long-term stability in Haiti. We witnessed these efforts clearly during the most recent Security Council visit to Haiti.

Egypt welcomes the progress in promoting democracy and security in Haiti, especially with regard to the endorsement by the Parliament, on 22 March, of the Prime Minister and the new Cabinet, as well as the most recent results of local elections, which were recently held in Haiti. We hope that the return of Haiti to constitutional order and the full reactivation of its executive and legislative branches will promote political and institutional stability and increase the country's ability to overcome urgent challenges.

Despite progress at the political and institutional levels, Haiti continues to face many serious challenges on several fronts, starting with the difficult economic situation and the numerous humanitarian and security challenges, especially with the ongoing cholera outbreak in the country, as well as the weak rule of law institutions and national police. In that regard, we believe it important for the United Nations to continue to play an effective and vital role in Haiti until the building of national institutions is complete, and to help Haiti to enhance its capacities with a view to optimally shouldering its responsibilities. That will help prevent Haiti from relapsing into a new crisis with new humanitarian, security and political complications that might require international intervention once again.

Moreover, we believe it is imperative for the international community to work together to support Haiti and mobilize efforts to promote the capacities of State institutions during this critical turning point so that Haiti can turn a new page towards a more prosperous and stable future. Therefore we have supported the calls to review the work of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), to close it down and adopt a new approach for a United Nations presence in Haiti by establishing a new United Nations mission — the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) — that is better able to meet the needs of the country. It must focus on the police and rule of law components.

It is therefore important to work to prevent any setbacks in the transitional period the closure of MINUSTAH and the deployment of MINUJUSTH. In that connection, we welcome the latest report of the Secretary-General (S/2017/604), as well as ongoing efforts to withdraw the military and police components of MINUSTAH in a way that does not affect — and thus far has not affected — the broader security situation in the country. In that regard, as MINUJUSTH takes on its mandate in October and in the light of our conclusions from the Council's valuable field visit to Haiti last month under the presidency of Bolivia, we would like to make the following five observations.

First of all, we stress the importance that the new United Nations mission mandate be limited to the building of Haitian national institutions, especially rule-of-law institutions and the Haitian National Police, in line with the national priorities and needs set by the Haitian Government, without any non-traditional or successor mandate.

Secondly, we attach special importance to the cholera outbreak in Haiti, especially as the United Nations bears a moral and legal responsibility to support the Haitian authorities in combating the epidemic. Therefore, the expected United Nations presence in Haiti must enjoy the necessary capacities to fight the outbreak. We welcome the report's reference to the appointment of Ms. Josette Sheeran as the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Haiti, to guide the implementation of the United Nations approach to cholera and to support national efforts to implementation the Sustainable Development Goals in Haiti. We also call for the provision of the necessary funding for fighting and ending this epidemic.

Thirdly, the capacities of the United Nations country team must be enhanced so that it can meet the future needs of Haiti and can focus on infrastructure development; the promotion of vocational training, education and health services; and the creation of a legislative environment conducive to foreign and domestic private sector investment, especially in the agriculture and tourism sectors. Such initiatives will give rise to job opportunities for tens of thousands of young people and promote the empowerment of women.

Fourthly, we must also firmly and seriously address the accusations of sexual abuse by MINUSTAH because during the Council's latest visit to Haiti, we listened to their national concerns on that issue. We sensed their bitterness at us not having addressed those cases and understand the situation's potential impact on the reputation and credibility of the United Nations.

Finally, as the peacekeeping era in Haiti draws to a close, supporting the efforts of building and sustaining peace must be the focus of the upcoming phase of the engagement of the United Nations and the international community in Haiti, especially in the light of a clear national vision of priorities that requires coordination among the different components of that engagement.

In conclusion, let me take this opportunity to express our full support to the people and the Government of Haiti. We have full trust in the ability of its elected Government and people to overcome this critical phase and open a new chapter of development, prosperity and conclusion in its region.

Mr. Kawamura (Japan): I would like to thank Ms. Sandra Honoré Braithwaite, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for her comprehensive briefing today. We commend Haiti's efforts to consolidate democracy, restore constitutional order and promote stability, as well as the contribution of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) to that end.

In order to ensure the successful implementation of MINUSTAH's mission and, above all, to support Haiti's reconstruction efforts, Japan is proud to have contributed to MINUSTAH, especially after the earthquake in 2010. The Security Council's visit was timely given the inauguration of the new Government and the transition of the United Nations presence. The visit provided us with a clear understanding of the reality on the ground and enabled us to demonstrate the continued United Nations support of the Haitian people. It also offered an opportunity to encourage Haitian efforts to further consolidate national unity and build a resilient and more prosperous society.

Japan is well aware that the smooth transition from MINUSTAH to the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) is essential. We look forward to a continued responsible transfer of tasks to MINUJUSTH, along with a greatly expanded role for the United Nations country team. We welcome the Secretary-General's vision for implementing MINUJUSTH's mandate and designing a strategy for gradual transition to local institutions, as outlined in his most recent report (S/2017/604). Japan strongly hopes that MINUJUSTH will further strengthen police and justice institutions as foundations for the stability and development of the country.

During our visit, we witnessed the positive results of the close cooperation between MINUSTAH and the Government of Haiti on strengthening the Haitian National Police (HNP). Challenges remain, however, including the ability of the Haitian National Police to respond to large-scale violence; border controls; the need for police stations and related facilities; and ongoing rule-of-law issues. We hope that the Government will focus on those priority security areas in partnership with the international community.

Another area of concern is public health. Cholera was mentioned by everyone, including the President, during the Council's visit. Since 2010, Japan has contributed more than $9 million through UNICEF and other international organizations in order to combat cholera. We are prepared to continue our support, especially on preventive socioeconomic measures such as poverty reduction and improving resilient infrastructure, with a focus on water, sanitation and hygiene. Japan will also continue to support post-disaster reconstruction in Haiti as well as development and the improvement of basic social services. While the main focus of the United Nations Mission is undergoing changes, our support to the people of Haiti should and will remain steadfast.

Mr. Alemu (Ethiopia): We would like to thank Special Representative Sandra Honoré Braithwaite for her briefing and for her admirable contribution to the work of the United Nations and to stress how much we appreciate her efforts. The mission was well executed.

We welcome the report of the Secretary-General (S/2017/604), which notes the steady progress that Haiti has made in consolidating its institutional and political stability. In that regard, the adoption of a Government road map that emphasizes accountability and transparency while at the same time fighting corruption is indeed encouraging. The Special Representative rightly underlined that aspect earlier. A joint legislative agenda to be followed by both the executive branch and the legislature will also be a significant element in strengthening their collaboration in implementing the reforms outlined by President Jovenel Moïse. We also support his goal of moving forward with a broad-based national dialogue to forge a common vision around reform priorities that address the most pressing social, economic and political challenges, and we agree with the Secretary-General on the need for the inclusion of electoral reform in this agenda in order to strengthen the national capacity to administer elections in the country.

Ethiopia also welcomes the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General for full restoration of the independence of the judiciary in order to consolidate Haiti's democracy and continued development.

Haiti remains relatively stable, but it certainly needs long-term support to address its vulnerability and economic fragility. We join other colleagues who have called for this to be given high priority. In fact, that is why the sustained engagement of all bilateral and international partners is very much critical to secure sufficient and timely assistance for the sustainable development of Haiti.

The Security Council mission to Haiti last month was indeed a demonstration of the continued engagement of the United Nations, and we are pleased to have participated in this important mission. We would like to seize this opportunity to express our appreciation to Bolivia for its role and leadership. The significance of the United Nations presence and transition to the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti to the country's stability, development and institutional consolidation in the area of the rule of law, police and human rights is indeed paramount.

We are encouraged to note the reduction in the number of suspected cases of death from cholera in recent months in Haiti despite the impact of Hurricane Matthew last year. However, the limited resources that have been made available to fund the cholera response is a matter of concern. The new approach of the United Nations to deal with this issue should be supported to respond to the needs of the people of Haiti, and to the victims of the cholera outbreak and their families in particular. That is all the more appropriate, fair and just in the light of the responsibility that the United Nations has, as indicated by the representative of Egypt when he took the floor.

Finally, I would like to express our appreciation to Ms. Honoré Braithwaite again for her significant contribution to Haiti's stability, as well as to all departing the civilian staff of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and uniformed personnel for their steadfast commitment in achieving the Mission's mandate. Ethiopia, as one of the police-contributing countries to MINUSTAH, is pleased to have made a very modest contribution to those efforts.

Mr. Delattre (France) (*spoke in French*): Let me begin by thanking the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti, Ms. Sandra Honoré Braithwaite, for her very enlightening briefing, as well as for her contribution and that of her teams to the stabilization of Haiti.

I associate myself with the statements that will be made by the observer of the European Union, as well as by the representative of Peru on behalf of the Group of Friends of Haiti.

France welcomed the adoption of resolution 2350 (2017), which formally acknowledges the closure of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) by October 15, and establishes a new mission focused on the issues of police, the rule of law and human rights. That decision, which was made unanimously by the Council, is essential. More than 13 years after the establishment of MINUSTAH, it was time to formally acknowledge the successes of the mission in stabilizing Haiti and to move towards a new form of United Nations presence more adapted to the needs of the country and the conditions on the ground, which have evolved considerably and in a favourable direction.

As underlined in the Secretary-General's report (S/2017/604), the work of MINUSTAH in recent years has been essential to getting Haiti out of the emergency situation in which the country found itself even just recently. It has made it possible to restore a general climate of relative security, participated in the reconstruction efforts after the terrible earthquake of 2010 and contributed to the significant firming up of the Haitian National Police, the increasing strength of which is a guarantee of stability for Haiti. That is a collective success, which, naturally, is due in great part to Haitians themselves. However, we must also give credit to the United Nations, the Council, as well as to the troop-contributing countries, without which this Mission could not play its role.

The new United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti, which will begin operations in October, should consolidate the progress achieved. It should make the Haitian National Police an autonomous actor, but also undertake major new projects in the area of the rule of law, such as the fight against impunity, the strengthening of professionalism and the independence of the judiciary, as well as the establishment of a prison system that is compatible with the needs of the country and the requirements in terms of respect for the rights of prisoners. The human rights situation, which remains a source of concern, should also be closely monitored, with regular recommendations made. This last component seems indispensable to robust and effective peacekeeping, and is therefore inseparable from the rest of the activities of the next mission. The commitment of Haitian authorities will naturally be essential to ensuring the success of the Mission.

France has long called on the Council to shoulder its responsibilities with respect to the question of Haiti, by making the necessary decisions to ensure that the engagement of the United Nations on the ground remains as appropriate and effective as possible over time. It is now done, and we are very glad of it. This new essential step does not mean the end of the commitment of the United Nations alongside Haiti. On the contrary, it demonstrates the Council's ability to continually adjust how the United Nations is involved on the ground, with the main concern of responding to the needs of the populations concerned. It also marks the establishment of a more responsive and powerful tool at the service of Haiti and Haitians, the success of which depends on maintaining our collective commitment. In that framework, the fight against the terrible cholera epidemic must of course continue to bring us together.

We believe that it is also essential — and this is a crucial point — to help Haiti move from a logic of assistance to one of sustainable development. That is the priority. That will be the mission of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti, in conjunction with the country team. The latter will also have an important role to play in future developments.

I would like to conclude by paying tribute once again to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ms. Sandra Honoré Braithwaite, as well as to all MINUSTAH personnel for their exemplary commitment to peace and security in Haiti.

Mr. Vaverka (Sweden): I associate myself with the statement that will be delivered by the observer of the European Union later today.

Let me join others in thanking the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti, Ms. Sandra Honoré Braithwaite, for her comprehensive briefing to the Council, and for her invaluable work, as well as that of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), in that country.

Her briefing and the report of the Secretary-General (S/2017/604) underline the progress made in the consolidation of democracy and stability in Haiti. The restoration of constitutional order, with the inauguration of Jovenel Moïse as President, and the formation of a Government under Prime Minister Jack Guy Lafontant, is indeed a milestone that has opened a window of opportunity for the future of Haiti.

Building a better future for Haiti will take time and continued determination. In addition to the progress made on the judicial track, further judicial reform,

including fighting corruption and impunity, improving access to justice and penal reform, will be crucial to Haiti's socioeconomic development. These efforts will also create better conditions for private investment. Strengthening the rule of law, respect for human rights and further strengthening the Haitian National Police force must therefore remain top priorities. Delivering on the expectations of the Haitian people will require an inclusive process in which all actors, including national authorities, political parties, civil society and the private sector, work together to deliver the necessary reforms. Women have a key role to play. Their full, equal and effective participation is particularly important.

MINUSTAH has played a significant role in supporting the progress we are now seeing in Haiti. Its institutional memory and key resources need to be used strategically during the transition period and beyond. It is particularly important that MINUSTAH's work on gender mainstreaming and against sexual and gender-based violence not be lost in the transition process. Therefore, it is essential that a strategic focus, coordination and budget for gender issues be maintained and that adequate reporting on these matters take place. We commend the Secretary-General for the many examples of work on gender and sexual and gender-based violence in the report.

As Haiti moves forward into this new phase in its development, the partnership between the Government, bilateral donors and the United Nations must also evolve. It is essential that the United Nations deliver as one in its support for national efforts. The Global Focal Point for Police, Justice and Corrections Areas in the Rule of Law in Post-Conflict and Other Crisis Situations could continue to play an important role in coordinating the efforts of the United Nations in this regard. In addition, an integrated and joined-up United Nations presence in Haiti — during and after the transition — will be needed to address the risks and drivers of instability. This includes efforts to reduce social inequality, help spur economic growth and strengthen trust in institutions.

Adequate planning for the successor mission to MINUSTAH, including for the handover to the United Nations country team and on how that country team should best be configured, will be critical. Planning should take place in the spirit of the agenda on sustaining peace and with a focus on long-term, inclusive development.

While the Secretary-General reports that Haiti appears to be on a steady path towards institutional and political stability, it is important that the United Nations and the Security Council in particular remain ready to support this process. As the needs in the country change, we will need to consider how best to use the different instruments in the United Nations toolbox to ensure peace and security and achieve sustainable peace and development.

I join others in acknowledging the concerns pertaining to cholera and sexual exploitation and abuse related to the United Nations presence in Haiti that were raised during the Council's recent visit. We welcome the intensified cholera response, which has resulted in a significant decline in suspected cholera cases. We were happy to co-sponsor General Assembly resolution 71/161 B, in support of the Secretary-General's new approach to eradicating cholera and building resilience in Haiti.

We also welcome the efforts to strengthen protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and the outreach efforts described in the report. Zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse for all peacekeeping and United Nations staff, uniformed as well as civilian, should be the only acceptable benchmark. Victims need to be protected, assisted and provided with the necessary rehabilitation, while perpetrators must be brought to justice.

To conclude, the progress that Haiti has seen could not have been achieved without the resilience, strength and determination of the Haitian people. Sweden will remain a committed partner for Haiti as it continues with this new chapter in its development.

Mr. Seck (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): The Senegalese delegation would like at the outset to thank the Chinese presidency for having convened this important debate on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). My thanks go also to Ms. Sandra Honoré Braithwaite, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of MINUSTAH, for her excellent briefing on the situation in Haiti.

It is my pleasure to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the key role played by the Group of Friends of Haiti, which, effectively coordinated by Uruguay, has been able to mobilize the international community in supporting Haiti.

At a time when MINUSTAH is moving towards its close, the Senegalese delegation would like to pay the Special Representative and all Mission staff well-deserved tribute for their work on behalf of the Haitian people during some of the worst times in their long history.

From 22 to 24 June, that is, two months after the adoption of resolution 2350 (2017), which extended for a further final period of six months MINUSTAH's mandate and established the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH), the Council undertook, under the Bolivian presidency, a historic visit to Haiti, its first to this country, which, I would recall, is the first black republic and the first democracy in the Americas hemisphere.

During said visit, the Council was able to see for itself the remarkable progress made at the political level, with the return to constitutional order following a very successful transition, as reflected in the democratic election and investiture of President Jovenel Moïse, after several years of institutional stagnation.

Today, galvanized by President Moïse, the Government of Prime Minister Jack Guy Lafontant has set itself the lofty goal of revitalizing the key sectors of agriculture, the environment, transport, security, justice, energy, education and health, as well as carrying out decentralization efforts, in order to meet the needs of Haitians throughout the country.

All of these actions are complemented by the adoption of an ambitious joint legislative reform programme that includes 51 draft bills and is aimed at improving the business environment, strengthening the role and authority of the State and ensuring better land management, with a view to rehabilitating the damaged Haitian ecosystem.

During its aforementioned visit, the Council witnessed the commendable efforts made by the Haitian authorities to turn the economic and security situation in the country around, and also was able to take stock of the magnitude of the remaining challenges stemming from the environmental, economic and social vulnerability of the country, which is exposed on an ongoing basis to the constant threat of drought and flood. Thus the international community, in particular the United Nations, must continue to support the Haitian Government in its efforts to relaunch the economy and improve the living conditions of its people.

We must bear in mind, therefore, that in Haiti today 2.35 million people are living in a situation of food insecurity. Nor must we lose sight of the fact that cholera, although no longer as widespread as it once was, remains a threat; that infrastructure is insufficient; that the performance of judicial and administration of justice institutions must be strengthened and supported; and that residual insecurity remains a source of concern.

All of this goes a long way towards explaining the tremendous hopes that the Haitian people have pinned on MINUJUSTH, the new Mission, which we firmly hope will, in accordance with its mandate, help consolidate the rule of law through improving accountability, respect for and the promotion of human rights, the creation of a secure environment, and support for justice and the operationalization of the Haitian National Police (HNP) following the withdrawal of the military component of MINUSTAH.

MINUJUSTH alone cannot do everything, thus Haiti stands in greater need than ever of the support of its development partners.

Accordingly, my delegation welcomed the visit to Haiti by the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti of the Economic and Social Council which provided the opportunity for examining ways to strengthen the partnership between the Government and the international community with a view to supporting the country's economic recovery and development. In supporting the Secretary-General's new approach to confronting the cholera epidemic that has affected Haiti for several years, my delegation believes that that should be better addressed by the international community in close collaboration not only with the Government, but also with the victims in Haiti.

In that regard, it is worth recalling that the recent call by Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed on Member States to contribute generously to financing the Secretary General's new United Nations approach to cholera in Haiti, the cost of which is estimated at $400, but for which only $2.7 million have been received to date.

As MINUSTAH is on the verge of completing its withdrawal, the Senegalese delegation urgently calls on the international community, beginning with the United Nations system and international financial institutions, as well as the Haitian Government, to join efforts so as, on the one hand, to prevent any form of security vacuum — because despite the outstanding

work carried out by the Haitian National Police, the security and justice sectors remain vulnerable and need to be strengthened — and, on the other hand, help the country improve its resilience in the face of frequent natural disasters and lay the foundations for sustainable development.

We must succeed in the transition between MINUSTAH and MINUJUSTH in close cooperation with the United Nations country team.

Mr. Fernández Revollo (Plurinational State of Bolivia) (*spoke in Spanish*): We thank Special Representative Honoré Braithwaite for her informative briefing on the latest developments in the Republic of Haiti and on the activities of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). We take this opportunity to express our gratitude for her work at the helm of MINUSTAH.

During the visit of the Security Council to Haiti in June, President Moïse shared the vision of his Government with respect to confronting his country's principle challenges, while placing emphasis on the "Caravane du changement" initiative and the joint legislative agenda, and expressed his desire that the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) be reclassified under Chapter VI, instead of Chapter VII, of the Charter of the United Nations. Bolivia supports Haiti's request and emphasizes the need to change the mandate of the new mission under Chapter VI of the Charter, especially as there is no threat to international peace and security. With regard to the progress on the ground, we commend the work carried out by the Government of the Republic of Haiti in connection with the road map focused on the security, justice, energy, education, health and agriculture sectors. Similarly, we commend its efforts to adopt a joint legislative agenda that undoubtedly demonstrates a commitment to democracy and stability.

During the visit of the Security Council, we received first-hand information on the situation in the brotherly country of Haiti, the preparation process for closing MINUSTAH and planning the transition to the new mission. The purpose of receiving that information was to explore how the Council could further contribute to the long-term stabilization of Haiti and collaborate with the Haitian people in their efforts to develop their country. The valuable information, which we received, must be used as input for refining the new mandate of MINUJUSTH in order to make it understandable, clear and more specific, especially with regard to the rule of law and reform of the justice sector.

Given that the new Mission is designed to carry out its work within a time frame not to exceed two years, it must fulfil a series of tasks and strategic goals during that same period. Bolivia would like to warn of the potential risk of not meeting the goals set out within such a short period of time because of a desire to encompass too many tasks lacking defined objectives. Such a flaw may counterproductively affect the work of the new mission.

With regard to the work of MINUSTAH, we congratulate the Mission on prioritizing its efforts so as to ensure a successful transition and for assessing its work, thereby leading to a review of the situation and the progress achieved thus far. That work is without any doubt reflected in the latest report of the Secretary-General (S/2017/604). We note that, before its final closure, the Mission must address the outstanding issues pertaining to the cholera situation, the justice sector and sexual exploitation and abuse.

At the same time, Bolivia emphasizes the importance of coordination between the new Mission and the United Nations country team so as to ensure that the responsibilities and tasks of other United Nations bodies, such as the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly, do not overlap. In that regard, we support the joint MINUSTAH transition plan with the country team in Haiti in coordination with the Government of Haiti, while always taking into account the priorities and needs of our brotherly country.

We reiterate that the United Nations has a moral responsibility with regard to victims of cholera in Haiti. In that vein, we stress the international community's obligation to help the Republic of Haiti overcome that crisis and reach the goal of building sound water, sanitation and health systems. During the visit of the Council, we heard from several stakeholders, including a cholera victim, about current concerns relating to the situation. We therefore call on the entire United Nations membership to join in the fight against cholera in Haiti and support General Assembly resolution 71/161 B, adopted on 13 July, establishes a trust fund for that purpose and calls on countries to voluntarily contribute their respective share of unencumbered balance for MINUSTAH to that fund. We urge the countries members of the Security Council and of the entire United Nations membership to shore up that fund.

Concerning, gender-based violence in Haiti, it is related to the poverty and social discrimination experienced by women. We urge the United Nations to remain vigilant in its actions so as to combat gender-based violence in Haiti, in particular sexual abuse and exploitation under the principle of zero-tolerance.

Bolivia recognizes the national ownership and the primary responsibility of the Government and the people of Haiti as they relate to all aspects of the development of their country, and encourages the new mission to provide logistical and technical experience in coordination with the Government, while respecting its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

In conclusion, I call on the Security Council to reflect on the intrinsic interconnectedness between peace and security and the basic needs of the population. If basic needs, such as health, education, water and sanitation services are not met, the road to lasting stability and development will be difficult, if not impossible, to achieve.

Mr. Biagini (Italy): I thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Honoré Braithwaite for her substantive briefing and her and her staff's commendable service.

Italy aligns itself with the statement to be made by the observer of the European Union.

In recent months, Haiti has continued its path towards consolidating its stability and constitutional order, thereby reaffirming the Security Council's decision to better adjust to the present needs of the country by withdrawing the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and replacing it with United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH).

As the Council witnessed during its mission last June, Haiti is at a crossroads. A constructive collaboration between the Government and the Parliament and an inclusive dialogue with civil society are now crucial to implementing the reform agenda jointly adopted by the executive and legislative branches, as well as for the development of a shared national vision for the country's future. We encourage the Haitian Government to continue on that path.

We welcome the start of a thorough assessment of constitutional review and emphasize in particular the importance of a consensual and effective reform of the electoral system. With the assistance of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), the Haitian National Police has achieved remarkable results, on which it must now build. We welcome the priority assigned by the authorities to its consolidation, which remains an essential pillar of security and stability in the country. Efforts must be redoubled to address weaknesses in the rule of law and justice system, with a special focus on the independence of the judiciary, the reform of the corrections system, the reduction of women's vulnerability and their increased participation in the political and socioeconomic life of the country. The United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) would rightly focus on those sectors.

Among the challenges still facing the country, allow me to point out the fight against cholera. We highly appreciate the Secretary-General's commitment to supporting the Government's efforts in that fight. We welcome the adoption last week by the General Assembly of resolution 71/161 B, which Italy co-sponsored.

Secondly, Italy remains firmly convinced that the transition between the two Missions is a due response to the evolution of the country's needs. Building on the results achieved by MINUSTAH, MINUJUSTH will have targeted tools that are adjusted to the present conditions on the ground and to the specific challenges being tackled by the Haitian authorities. That transition must be well planned and responsible. So far, the withdrawal of MINUSTAH has not affected the overall security situation and we invite the Secretary-General to continue to follow that process with special attention and to keep the Council duly informed.

It is essential to ensure continuity and to identify, as of now, a strategy to progressively transfer competencies to the country team, whose role will be strengthened and, ultimately, to Haitian authorities. We invite the Secretary-General to continue that planning effort on the basis of the integrated approach highlighted in his report (S/2017/604). I would like in particular to underscore the political strategy underlined in the MINUJUSTH priorities outlined by the Secretary-General. We fully share the pivotal role assigned to the Mission's political pillar and to its good offices, as well as the intention to put in place mobile and integrated Mission deployment throughout the country, in order to maximize its impact while at the same time keeping a light footprint.

United Nations action in Haiti attests to the need to ensure coherence between supporting the political process, keeping peace and promoting development and human rights. In that respect, in our view, Haiti represents a test and reference model of the Council's ability to handle a transition based on a recognition of the close connection that exists among prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, and comply with the criteria of effectiveness, peer mandates and a well-timed sustainable exit strategy. Such an effort requires the involvement of the entire United Nations system and the use of all the tools at its disposal to ensure peace, avoid relapses into conflict and trigger lasting development. In Haiti, we have the opportunity to show the value of that strategy, which is in line with the wider peace and security reform that Italy shares and supports.

In conclusion, Italy has a long-standing history of friendly relations and solidarity with Haiti and its people. We will continue along that path as a member of the Council, the United Nations and the European Union, and at the bilateral level.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of China.

I thank Special Representative Honoré Braithwaite for her briefing.

Currently, Haiti's overall situation is stable. The new Government has formulated a roadmap for national development and is committed to speeding up economic and social reform and to improving people's lives. The Haitian National Police has become stronger and is gradually taking over the responsibility of maintaining national security and stability. That has presented a new opportunity for the development of Haiti. China hopes that the parties concerned in Haiti will seize this opportunity to keep the current positive momentum, expedite the development of areas such as energy, education, health and agriculture, improve people's livelihoods, strengthen the rule of law, comprehensively implement the strategic plan for developing the National Police in order to reach its planned strength of 15,000 as soon as possible, thereby creating conditions that are conducive to improving the situation in Haiti.

China welcomes the recent unanimous adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 71/161 B in response to the cholera epidemic in Haiti. We hope that the international community will respond actively to the United Nations new approach to cholera in Haiti in order to help the country eliminate the epidemic as soon as possible. At the same time, there is a need to increase humanitarian assistance, support Haiti in enhancing its capacity in disaster risk reduction and prevention, safeguard food security and provide greater support to Haiti in its efforts to consolidate peace and stability, and implement the Sustainable Development Goals, as contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

China appreciates the contribution made by the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and Special Representative Honoré Braithwaite in promoting peace and development in Haiti. With the mandate of the Mission expiring on 15 October, the current priority should be a smooth transition so as to achieve an orderly withdrawal of MINUSTAH on the basis of maintaining stability Haiti and to ensure the successful deployment of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support after 15 October. China hopes that the Secretariat, MINUSTAH and the United Nations country team in Haiti will maintain coordination among themselves and enhance communication with the Government of Haiti so as to ensure the success of the transitional process.

Once again, the recent successful visit by the Security Council mission to Haiti sends a strong signal of the Council's attention to addressing the problem in the country. China is ready to work with other Council members towards a speedy realization of long-term peace, stability and sustainable development in Haiti.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I give the floor to the representative of Haiti.

Mr. Régis (Haiti) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I would like to thank the Security Council for having kindly invited the Government of Republic of Haiti to today's meeting to share its views and observations about the Secretary-General's important report (S/2017/604) on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), on which the Special Representative has just briefed us.

On behalf of the Government of Haiti, I would also like to sincerely thank the Secretary-General for his commitment to the people of Haiti, as his report eloquently attests. As usual, it is an objective, detailed, professional and balanced document. Our Government

took careful note of and meticulously studied his observations and detailed recommendations. We are deeply grateful to him.

Members of the Security Council visited Haiti from 22 to 24 June, demonstrating their readiness to assist the Haitian people at this decisive juncture, replete with new prospects for stability, growth and development. The Government of Haiti warmly welcomed the mission.

At this pivotal time in the country's life, the Haitian Government welcomes the Secretary-General's overall assessment of the situation in Haiti. The country is indeed deeply committed to consolidating its democracy and to political and institutional stability. Much progress has been made at the security, political and institutional levels and in the areas of human rights and the building of the rule of law, as underscored by the Secretary-General. Mr. Jovenel Moïse's assumption of the presidency on 7 February to end a transparent and credible electoral process has indisputably marked a turning point in Haiti's political trajectory.

Whether it is the return to constitutional order, the establishment of a fully functional Parliament, the assumption of duties by all publicly elected officials at all levels of the governance system, consultations between the legislative and executive branches with regard to the implementation of critical reform programmes needed to modernize the State, launched by the Head of State, all observers agree that recent developments demonstrate ongoing progress towards establishing the rule of law and consolidating democracy in Haiti. The same is true of the Government's focus on security, justice, education, decentralization, transparency, accountability and the need to combat corruption. Those developments were highlighted by the Secretary-General and duly illustrate the new climate prevailing in Haiti. Without a doubt, the goal of creating a secure and stable environment, one of the major thrusts of MINUSTAH's mandate, has been achieved. The capacities of the Haitian National Police (HNP) have been significantly strengthened, as well as its ability to ensure law and order throughout the country.

In that regard, the Government welcomes the fact that the overall security situation has not been affected by the current withdrawal of MINUSTAH staff. This is proof, if further proof were needed, of the assumption of security functions by the Haitian National Police. The HNP has become a cornerstone of the national security architecture. This is a remarkable accomplishment by the Mission in all respects.

Also, at a time when the mandate of MINUSTAH draws to an end, the Haitian Government wishes to extend its gratitude to all countries that have, over the past 13 years, generously contributed and participated in its various military, police and civilian components. Notwithstanding the progress achieved at almost every level, the Government of Haiti is well aware of the myriad ongoing challenges and the magnitude of the obstacles hampering economic development and slowing down certain necessary reforms, which create genuine obstacles to the rule of law and the full enjoyment of human rights, including in their economic, social and cultural dimensions.

The Government has taken note of what the Secretary-General describes as limited progress in the functioning of the judiciary and the administration of justice and the residual shortcomings that have been noted, in particular in the judicial and corrections systems. In that regard, the views of the Haitian Government and those of Secretary-General are aligned with regard to the crucial importance of the judiciary's independence for building and consolidating democracy in Haiti and the continued development of the country.

In line with its general policy declaration, the Government, under the authority of Prime Minister Jacques Guy Lafontant, is working to strengthen the rule of law, which ensures stability and creates conditions conducive to private investment, which is so necessary.

Along the same lines, the Government of Haiti has noted the human rights concerns indicated in the report, including the often tragic consequences of prolonged pre-trial detention and prison overcrowding. Aware of the gravity of the problem and of the urgency of rectifying it, the Head of State set up a commission tasked with fully taking stock of the situation in order to find a prompt solution. The work of the commission continues and its conclusions and recommendations are expected soon.

In general, the Government wishes to reiterate its commitment to respecting, defending and promoting human rights without any discrimination, in accordance with its commitments and obligations under international and regional human rights treaties to which the Republic of Haiti is party.

The report also highlights a wide range of social and humanitarian challenges — the fragile economic situation, a gross 20-per-cent decrease in public investment, a slowdown in private investment, the vulnerable situation of repatriated individuals from the Dominican Republic and the growing vulnerability of Haitian households, which is reflected in the food insecurity that affects more than 2 million people. At the same time, the cholera epidemic is far from being contained, despite some significant recent advances in the fight against the scourge. In short, Haiti faces an urgent situation, which recent United Nations missions, including those of the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council, had had an opportunity to take stock of. Such a situation obviously calls for the adoption of urgent measures.

The Government of Haiti wishes to reiterate its call to all its cooperation partners to quickly and sustainably resume official development assistance flows, based on flexible financing programmes and mechanisms that not only respond to situations that have been observed, but also to establish the conditions to enable Haiti to transition from a state of economic fragility to that of sustained, robust and sustainable growth, in accordance with the wish expressed by the Secretary-General in his latest report.

With regard to the conclusion of the operations of MINUSTAH, the Government of Haiti welcomes the successful conduct of the plan for the complete and orderly withdrawal of the 2,370 troops from the military component of the Mission and the progressive reduction of its civilian and police components to authorized levels. At the same time, my Government attaches the utmost importance to the consolidation of the gains, especially in the priority areas that have been targeted, including strengthening the rule of law and the justice system, promoting and defending human rights and support for the development of the police.

Haiti will continue to work, in accordance with its needs and priorities and in the best spirit of consultation and cooperation, with United Nations bodies in defining the mandate of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH), its scope of intervention and the establishment of its strategic objectives. We are confident that the lessons learned from the 13 years of the mandate of MINUSTAH will be judiciously harnessed by MINUJUSTH. The search for solutions to the serious problems that have undermined the political, social and economic stability of Haiti for so long is critical. Our ardent hope is that MINUJUSTH will achieve the desired result by the end of its mandate, namely, on the one hand, significantly improve the trust of all sectors of society in the rule of law and in the checks and balances of democracy and, on the other hand, contribute to the country's long-term stability and economic development, to echo the words of the Secretary-General. Rest assured that the Government of Haiti will spare no effort to achieve this goal and to enable the initiatives of MINUJUSTH to meet our shared expectations.

In conclusion, let me take this opportunity to reiterate to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ms. Sandra Honoré Braithwaite, the warm congratulations of the Haitian Government — to which I join my voice — on her commitment and work in Haiti.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of Mexico.

Mr. Ruiz Cabañas (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to thank China for having convened this public debate. I would also like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), my friend Ms. Sandra Honoré Braithwaite, for her briefing, and especially for her tireless work over the past few years. Mexico recognizes in her an esteemed and dedicated international civil servant. Her dedication to the Haitian people and her efforts to bring about the peace and development we seek at the Organization are exemplary.

The unanimous adoption of resolution 2350 (2017), which provides for the conclusion of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti and to which Mexico contributed a group of military observers, and the establishment of the new United Nations Mission in Support of Justice in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) in October is a natural consequence of the favourable development of the situation in the country. The strengthening of the rule of law and national institutions and the full-fledged pursuit of development with the support of the United Nations and the international community are signs of new times for Haiti, which is decisively assuming responsibility for its future.

We welcome the General Assembly's recent allocation of adequate resources to help MINUSTAH ensure a responsible, progressive and prudent transition to the new Mission, so as to avoid a security vacuum

and to lay the foundations for sustainable and lasting peace in Haiti.

The United Nations is not withdrawing from Haiti. Our presence in the country has evolved and, more important, our conception of peace and development has also evolved. The United Nations country team, which will continue to be present on the ground and from which we expect impeccable coordination, coherence, efficiency and transparency, plays a central role in supporting Haiti's economic and social development, the strengthening of its institutions and ensuring respect for human rights.

Mexico, as part of the Economic and Social Council's Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, has noted the willingness of President Moïse to promote a new national dialogue that will give way to a future of prosperity. The United Nations must support the Haitian Government and be sensitive to its priorities. We must encourage Haiti to focus its development — like all other States — on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development so that its people can reap the benefits of the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The United Nations has the unique opportunity in Haiti to demonstrate that we face new paradigms and a have a new way of working — that we have moved from conflict management to sustainable development coordination. In that connection, prevention and the links between peace and security and development are seen as concrete examples of the renewed framework of sustainable peace. The new focus of MINUJUSTH and its necessary coordination with the country team should be seen as an opportunity for coordination — both on the ground and at the Secretariat — of the efforts of the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and all United Nations agencies.

The United Nations has a moral and economic debt to the Haitian people. We have not yet found an appropriate response to the problems caused by the terrible cholera epidemic in order to properly care for the families of the victims and those affected. We can no longer postpone the implementation of a viable solution that will allow us to close this sad chapter of the United Nations presence in Haiti.

Mexico, together with Jamaica, co-facilitated General Assembly resolution 71/314, entitled "The new United Nations approach to cholera in Haiti", in which the Assembly recognizes the responsibility of the Organization to the people of Haiti with regard to the devastating effects the disease has had for the Haitian people. In that connection, we reiterate the call made by the General Assembly for Member States to consider the possibility of contributing the unencumbered balances and income credits of MINUSTAH to the United Nations Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund.

Before concluding, I would like to take this final opportunity to thank and acknowledge the commitment of all military and civilian officials who have been part of MINUSTAH over the past 13 years. In particular, Mexico pays tribute to all United Nations staff who lost their lives in pursuit of a better future for the beloved Haitian people. We will never forget them.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of Brazil.

Mr. Vieira (Brazil): I thank China for convening this very important debate. I also thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ms. Sandra Honoré Braithwaite, for her briefing and reiterate my Government's appreciation for her leadership. I also welcome the contribution of the Permanent Representative of Haiti, Ambassador Denis Régis.

I would like to start by commending Haitian political actors for their visible efforts to work together on a joint legislative agenda that includes more than 50 draft laws to reinforce State functions, ensure better territorial planning and improve the business environment in the country. The "Caravane du changement" initiative, aimed at revitalizing the agricultural, environmental and transport sectors, is a good example of how a broad-based national dialogue can forge a common vision around reform priorities that address the most pressing socioeconomic and political challenges. Brazil joined the Economic and Social Council's Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti in its annual visit to Washington, D.C., and to Port-au-Prince in order to examine ways to strengthen the partnership between the Government and the international community in support of the country's economic recovery and development. The importance of a responsible transition from the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) to the United Nations Mission in Support of Justice in Haiti (MINUJUSTH), based on realistic planning and Haitian ownership, was one of its main findings.

Brazil is fully committed to a smooth security transition in Haiti. Last month, the Brazilian component concluded the handover of security tasks to the national

police in the commune of Cité Soleil, Port-au-Prince, in close coordination with MINUSTAH's police component and while sharing the lessons learned in more than 10 years of operations in that area.

Although the Haitian National Police capacities have improved in recent years, it is important to highlight the considerable remaining challenges that this relatively young institution faces. The number of police officers is still insufficient, corresponding to only half of world standards for public security. Training and management also need significant improvement and support. We believe that the successful implementation of the Haitian National Police strategic plan for the period 2017-2021, just adopted by the Haitian Government, will be crucial during the transition from MINUSTAH to MINUJUSTH.

We concur with the observation in the Secretary General's report (S/2017/604) that MINUJUSTH's success will largely depend upon its ability to quickly forge a relationship of partnership, mutual understanding and cooperation with the Government on priority challenges that need to be addressed in the country. Bold Government leadership will be vital to consolidating the progress made thus far.

The reference to a "two-year mandate horizon" for MINUJUSTH in the Secretary General's report is not the exact language adopted in Council resolution 2350 (2017), which reads "a projected two-year timeframe" — a more flexible decision that is line with the conditions on the ground. Pre-empting the closure of a mission that has not been established yet may jeopardize its functioning and the implementation of its mandate.

We are glad to see that the Secretary General's report acknowledges the importance of quick-impact projects implemented by MINUSTAH in support of the Haitian National Police in recent months. We believe that this important tool should also be present in the section which describes the operations of MINUJUSTH. The planning under way should duly reflect and implement Council resolution 2350 (2017), including paragraph 11, which

> "[D]ecides that the rule of law efforts of MINUJUSTH, including community violence reduction efforts and quick impact projects, as appropriate, will be part of a strategy towards a continued, progressive transition to development actors".

Those projects have played an important role in supporting core stabilization objectives and will certainly be crucial to the consolidation of the rule of law in Haiti.

Brazil noted with appreciation the Council's visit to Haiti last month, which aimed at renewing support to the Haitian Government and people and gathering first-hand elements for a successful transition from MINUSTAH to MINUJUSTH. The 30 June briefing on the visit (see S/PV.7994) made it clear that, for several stakeholders, the fact that MINUJUSTH has been kept under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations fails to recognize the significant progress that has been achieved in Haiti during MINUSTAH's 13 years of operations.

Besides that, we could not help but notice that the issue of cholera was mentioned at every meeting as a serious concern that required attention. MINUJUSTH should be empowered to support the implementation of the new United Nations approach to cholera in Haiti. Brazil's own support to that approach remains steadfast. We will continue to collaborate with the health sector in Haiti, including through bilateral initiatives, such as the three hospitals and the rehabilitation centre that the Brazilian Government has supported with a budget totalling $90 million to date. As the United Nations reconfigures its presence in the country, we believe that Haiti could also benefit from the support of the Peacebuilding Commission and its Peacebuilding Fund.

I would like to conclude by reaffirming Brazil's long-term commitment to, and solidarity with, Haiti, as well as our confidence in the Haitian people's persistence and their determination to succeed in their quest for stability, democracy and prosperity.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the observer of the European Union.

Mr. Dabouis (*spoke in French*): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 member States. The candidate countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania; the country of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina; as well as the Republic of Moldova and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

I would first like to thank the Secretary-General for his report (S/2017/604), and his Special Representative

for her briefing. I also thank the Permanent Representative of Haiti for his statement.

On 13 April, the Security Council adopted resolution 2350 (2017), which extended the mandate of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) for a final period of six months. The resolution also laid down the legal framework for the transition to the United Nations Mission in Support of Justice in Haiti (MINUJUSTH), whose role will be to strengthen the rule of law and the police and to protect and promote human rights. MINUSTAH has played a key role in the area of security for the people of Haiti for almost 10 years, including ensuring security during especially difficult times such as, for example, the most recent elections. It continues to be a very important part of security in Haiti.

The prolonged institutional instability that has marked the electoral process in Haiti seems finally to be over. The completion of the process has enabled Haiti to elect a President transparently and credibly and by an ample majority. The National Assembly has been renewed, while a new Government has been formed with a programme that has the Assembly's confidence. We welcome the country's return to constitutional order in accordance with the will of the electorate, despite the enormous difficulties it has to deal with and its systemic weaknesses. This is a vital ingredient in ensuring that Haiti will be able to cope with its many political, economic, social and environmental challenges.

As has been the case for the past few years, the efforts of all concerned to ensure stability and security will be crucial to the process of consolidating democracy. A key element will be ensuring that consensus is reached on thorough reform of the electoral system if Haiti is to avoid new crises and regain the people's trust. In order to see that happen, the European Union will continue to be a faithful partner to the Republic of Haiti and remains committed to supporting it in consultation with its partners during this delicate phase, including through the necessary reforms.

We acknowledge the closure of MINUSTAH and its replacement by a smaller entity, MINUJUSTH, which will focus on supporting the Haitian National Police. In that regard, we have given serious attention to Security Council members' comments at the 29 June briefing on the Council's visit to Haiti a few days before (see S/PV.7994). In our view, the security situation in Haiti is still very fragile, and we therefore consider it vital to complete the work of strengthening and professionalizing the Haitian police. When the time comes during the transition period, we must be sure that the necessary continuity has been well prepared for. The security and well-being of citizens, and the stability of the country as a whole, depend upon it. In that context, we welcome the special attention that the Secretary General's report gives to rule-of-law and human rights issues, and we urge that they be revisited in greater detail with clarification of the stages and responsibilities involved.

In conclusion, I would like to once again express the European Union's appreciation for the contribution that MINUSTAH has made to security and to building democracy and the rule of law in Haiti. We also expect to see some critical reactions to various aspects of the Mission, since it is important to learn from the past if we are to improve our effort in the future. We welcome the preparations for the transition, which should be carefully designed to ensure continuity for our joint efforts. Now the sequence of events that will ultimately leave the Haitian State fully responsible for the security and protection of its citizens must be planned, detailed and launched. Special attention must be given to respect for human rights on the security front and to access to impartial justice for all. It is essential to ensure that the Haitian police and judicial system will be properly prepared to take over all the tasks currently being done by the United Nations Mission.

Together with the United Nations and the international community, the European Union will support the Haitian authorities in consolidating their commitment and efforts to secure a better future, in an atmosphere of peace, democracy and well-being, for the Haitian people.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of Colombia.

Ms. Mejía Vélez (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for the invitation to speak in today's debate at a crucial time for Haiti when, with the support of the Security Council and the Group of Friends of Haiti of the Organization of American States, of which Colombia is part, Haitians are taking a new step in the right direction in order to build an environment of sustainable peace, now with a special emphasis on justice. I would also like to thank Ms. Sandra Honoré Braithwaite, Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Haiti, for her briefing on

the Secretary-General's report (S/2017/604) and for the long years of commitment that she has shown to the Haitian people and to the United Nations in carrying out her duties.

On Friday, during the General Assembly's adoption of resolution 71/314, on the new United Nations approach to cholera in Haiti, of which my country was a sponsor, it became clear that the United Nations has a greater impact on the ground with regard to its ethical duty when it implements its mandates on the basis of precise, comprehensive road maps that take into account the specifics of each case, thereby enabling it to improve its allocation of resources and efforts designed to deal with conflicts, humanitarian crises and, in this case, the consolidation of peace. My country acknowledges the political process that Haiti has made, as the report and the Ambassador of Haiti describe, and which has unquestionably helped to bring an official end, starting on 25 October, to the activities of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), and to usher in a new phase that can now focus on support to justice through the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH).

Colombia firmly believes that the path towards peaceful, inclusive and prosperous societies goes hand in hand with the strength of their democratic institutions and the rule of law — a battle we will support Haiti in carrying out. The efforts undertaken to ensure that the Haitian people can count on a professional and more robust national police force enjoy the support of the Government of Colombia by way of our deployment of police, men and women, as well as the training provided in our country to women contingents of the Haitian National Police, to which we today commit to continue to support. Nevertheless, the next step must of course be to make progress in strengthening the judicial system in such a way that the path towards justice includes the establishment of a foundation conducive to improvements in the socioeconomic conditions of the entire population.

In its 2017 report, the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti makes it clear that it will continue to work so that there is greater coordination among all actors involved in addressing the challenges facing Haitians when it comes not just to cholera, but generally with regard to human rights, political participation and sustainable development, so that they can respond to the challenges they will face once MINUSTAH departs and the new mission begins, while also improving prospects for development.

The history of friendship and cooperation between Haiti and Colombia goes back to our own independence, when Haiti afforded Simón Bolivar an opportunity to restructure his troops and again take the path towards the independence of our peoples. We would therefore not be here were it not for that support. It is for that reason that I would like to recall the words expressed here by President Santos Calderón when we presided over the Security Council in 2011:

> "Haitians yearn to be heard. An international community that does not take Haitians' views of their problems into account does not serve Haiti." (*S/PV.6510, p. 3*)

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of Peru.

Mr. Meza-Cuadra (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of Friends of Haiti, which includes Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, France, Guatemala, the United States, Uruguay and my country, Peru.

I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on having organized this debate to discuss the latest report (S/2017/604)of the Secretary-General, issued on 12 July, on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), requested by the Security Council in its resolution 2350 (2017), adopted on 13 April.

The Group of Friends welcomes the presence of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Haiti, Ms. Sandra Honoré Braithwaite, and thanks her for her exhaustive briefing and the role she has played in supporting the political process in Haiti, the professionalization of the police and the maintenance of a safe and stable environment.

The Group of Friends also welcomes with satisfaction the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 2350 (2017) of 13 April. The Group of Friends acknowledges the important role that MINUSTAH played in promoting stability and security in Haiti. The Group expresses its deep appreciation and gratitude to the staff of MINUSTAH and to all Member States that have contributed to the Mission. Furthermore, the Group pays homage to those who were injured or lost their lives in the line of duty.

Strengthening the rule of law and democratic institutions, establishing a political culture conducive to democratic stability and improving socioeconomic conditions are key elements to achieve greater security, stability and prosperity in Haiti. In that regard, the Group of Friends is pleased that Haiti has continued to make progress in consolidating its democracy and stability. The Group of Friends congratulates the President of the Republic of Haiti, Mr. Jovenel Moïse, for the actions undertaken during his first 100 days of in office, including the "Caravane du changement" initiative.

The Group of Friends emphasizes the importance that national ownership, inclusion and the role that civil society can play to advance national peacebuilding processes and reiterates the vitality of the commitment of the Government of Haiti to strengthen the rule of law and to achieve greater progress in the justice and security sectors.

The Group of Friends welcomes the continued strengthening, professionalization and reform of the Haitian National Police (HNP) and welcomes the approval by Prime Minister Jack Guy Lafontant of the HNP strategic development plan for the period 2017-2021, as well as the approach of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) to the institutional and professional development of the HNP within the framework of the plan.

The Group of Friends stresses that there can be no genuine stability, peace or sustainable development in Haiti without democratic institutions and strengthened democratic processes. In that context, the Group recognizes the limited progress made in the performance of judicial institutions and in the administration of justice. The Group of Friends emphasizes the importance of strengthening the rule of law through the consolidation of Haitian institutions and reaffirms the role of MINUSTAH and its successor, MINUJUSTH, in supporting the Haitian State by promoting better governance structures, the transparency and independence of the judiciary, as well as the promotion and protection of human rights, in accordance with their mandates. In that regard, the Group of Friends encourages the Government of Haiti to make progress in the areas of justice and human rights.

The Group of Friends recognizes that the strengthening of national human rights institutions and respect for human rights, including those of women and children; due process and the fight against crime, sexual and gender-based violence; the end of impunity and prolonged pre-trial detention; and the promotion of accountability, are essential to guarantee the rule of law and security in Haiti, including access to justice. The Group of Friends stresses the importance of the Haitian authorities assigning the human rights portfolio to a specific Government ministry.

The Group of Friends welcomes General Assembly resolutions 71/161 A and 71/161 B, on the new United Nations approach to cholera in Haiti, which aims to renew the efforts of the Organization to eliminate the transmission of cholera and to address the suffering of its victims. The Group welcomes the decrease in the number of suspected cases of cholera and related deaths as a result of the increased response to cholera. The Group believes that efforts to eliminate cholera should continue and encourages Member States to contribute to the United Nations Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund to support the new approach, including reorienting to the Fund, where possible, the excess balance from MINUSTAH's 2015-2016 balance sheet. The Group of Friends also welcomes the appointment by the Secretary-General of Ms. Josette Sheeran as Special Envoy for Haiti, who will guide the full implementation of the new United Nations approach to reduce the impact of cholera and will support national efforts to achieve sustainable growth in Haiti by 2030 and the implementation plan.

The Group of Friends notes that, while significant progress has been made, Haiti continues to face major humanitarian challenges, especially due to the impact of Hurricane Matthew. In that regard, the Group welcomes the mission of the Senior Transformative Agenda Implementation Team of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, which made recommendations to the humanitarian country team and the Government on how to improve the effectiveness of the humanitarian architecture, optimize coordination between humanitarian and development actors, and adopt a more strategic approach to protection.

In addition, the Group of Friends affirms that progress in the reconstruction of Haiti, as well as Haiti's socioeconomic development, including effective, coordinated and commendable international development assistance, and Haitian institutional capacity-building in order to benefit from that assistance, is crucial to achieve sustainable peace and stability, and reiterates the need for security to be accompanied by sustainable social, economic and environmental

development, efforts in which the Government of Haiti plays a leading role, with the support of the United Nations country team.

The Group of Friends acknowledges the important contribution of MINUSTAH to stabilization in Haiti. It has initiated the implementation of a comprehensive withdrawal plan covering the military, police and civilian components. The Group of Friends welcomes the fact that MINUSTAH and the United Nations country team have finalized and adopted a joint transition plan as the culmination of the comprehensive planning process that began in 2014-2015. The Group of Friends reiterates its solidarity with and commitment to the people and the Government of Haiti in their aspiration for stability, reconstruction, recovery, economic development and the consolidation of democracy.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of Argentina.

Mr. García Moritán (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): I should like at the outset to thank the Chinese presidency for having convened this meeting.

Argentina aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Peru on behalf of the Group of Friends of Haiti and would like to make the following additional brief comments.

We thank the Special Representative, Ms. Sandra Honoré Braithwaite, for her briefing on the most recent report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 2350 (2017) (S/2017/604) and reiterate our country's full support for her efforts.

We once again underscore the important work carried out by all staff of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), who, despite the tremendous challenges with which they are confronted, including devastating natural disasters, have fulfilled their mandate of helping Haiti to move towards sustainable peace and development. We also reiterate our congratulations to President Jovenel Moïse on his election and on the actions taken during his first 100 days in office, which are aimed at consolidating democracy and relaunching the Haitian economy.

Argentina would like to underline the achievements that we have seen in the run-up to the withdrawal of MINUSTAH and the establishment of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH), in particular the progress on aspects relating to the future implementation of MINUJUSTH's important mandate of assistance to the consolidation of rule-of-law institutions, the strengthening of the Haitian National Police and the promotion and protection of human rights in the country.

We support the transition plan and the political strategy drawn up by the Secretary-General, as described in the report submitted to us for consideration. Without prejudice to all of the aforementioned, it is our understanding that although resolution 2350 (2017) envisages a two-year time frame for the new Mission, the lifetime or duration of MINUJUSTH must be dependent on the situation on the ground rather than prescribed by rigid deadlines, thus avoiding any premature withdrawal that would imperil the achievements made throughout the 13 years of MINUSTAH's presence in the country.

Moreover, and, as is foreseen in the aforementioned resolution, we believe it essential that the new Mission include quick-impact projects which, according to the report, have benefited more than 2 million people during the fiscal year 2016–2017 by financing activities related to the rule of law, governance, public infrastructure and the supply of safe drinking water. Argentina believes that such projects, together with those aimed at reducing community violence, are vital in order to move forward in the building and sustaining of peace in Haiti, as well as to forge ties of cooperation and trust between the United Nations presence and the Haitian people.

Argentina had previously welcomed the appointment of Ms. Josette Sheeran as the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General charged with drawing up a comprehensive strategy for the implementation of the Organization's new focus on cholera in Haiti and with supporting Haitian efforts to meet the Sustainable Development Goals.

It is a great pleasure for me to share with the Council the fact that my country, Argentina, recently announced a voluntary contribution to the United Nations Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund. We are confident that the new Mission will contribute to the implementation of the aforementioned new approach on cholera.

The withdrawal of the Argentine military hospital last August and the ending of MINUSTAH's mandate in no way mean that we are cutting ties with Haiti, particularly given that in addition to continuing our bilateral cooperation, we will make available civilian police officers and specific capacities, particularly

in the framework of the Mission's mandate, which is aimed at strengthening and ensuring the professional development of the Haitian National Police.

On that point, and without prejudice to the sovereign decisions that Haiti might take on issues related to its own security and defence, we trust that the eventual planned deployment of armed forces in the country will not detract from the effective implementation of the recently concluded strategic development plan for the Haitian National Police 2017–2021.

I should like to conclude by reiterating Argentina's commitment to Haiti and paying tribute to the work of Ms. Honoré Braithwaite and to the work of all military, police and civilian staff of MINUSTAH. We wish also to honour the memory of those who have given their lives in service of its noble mission.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of Chile.

Mr. Barros Melet (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): We are grateful for the briefing that we have heard from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti, Ms. Sandra Honoré Braithwaite. We also welcome the presence here this morning of the Permanent Representative of Haiti, Ambassador Denis Régis.

Chile aligns itself with the statement delivered by the delegation of Peru on behalf of the Group of Friends of Haiti.

On 15 July, the ship *Sargento Aldea* arrived in Valparaiso, bringing home the last Chilean troops from the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and thus wrapping up Chile's more than 12 years of participation in the Mission. Although our military presence is coming to an end, the principles that inspired our involvement in the first place still hold true. Together with supporting security standards in the country, including through the strengthening of police capacity, our contribution to Haiti also focused on a broad array of tasks aimed at supporting communities, including the repair and rebuilding of educational establishments, the building of kindergartens and the financing of scholarships, among other areas of cooperation. Our support and cooperation, together with other actors and stakeholders and guided by Haitian priorities, will continue as we seek to further cement the achievements of the past 13 years.

The report of the Secretary-General (S/2017/604) details the major achievements in the stabilization of Haiti, including the headway made in the consolidation of democracy there. We congratulate President Jovenel Moïse on the actions taken during his first 100 days in office, including the "Caravane du changement" initiative, which, hopefully, will lay the foundation for a more equitable Haiti. We also welcome the creation of a legislative agenda in keeping with the way in which the Haitian people are coming together to pursue a common goal. These milestones represent an opportunity that we cannot let slip through our fingers if we wish to consolidate the principle of national ownership and foster the necessary synergies with the international community.

The support of the United Nations for Haiti will remain essential in the process of the consolidation and transition. We welcome the joint plan drawn up between MINUSTAH and the country team, which was arrived at through a careful planning process. We reiterate that we must be aware at all times of conditions on the ground, and in particular of the need for coordination among all stakeholders. We cannot allow the gains achieved on the path towards stability and development to be rolled back.

There is no doubt that the main humanitarian challenge facing Haiti on the path towards sustainable development is that of tackling the cholera epidemic. We welcome the recent adoption of General Assembly resolution 71/314, supporting the new United Nations approach to cholera, which was co-sponsored by my country. We hope that the adoption of the resolution will strengthen the United Nations Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund, and we appeal to the international community to contribute to the financing of said instrument.

Finally, it would be remiss of me to conclude without drawing attention to the tireless efforts of Ms. Sandra Honoré Braithwaite to bring the process to a successful close. Chile expresses once again its appreciation for her commitment and that of her team to the Haitian people and to the United Nations.

Finally, we reiterate Chile's commitment to Haiti and its people and reaffirms the importance of continuing to support this sisterly nation, which has sovereign authority over its own development.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.